# Diagnostic Checklist For ADHD\*

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) comprises a pattern of symptoms that are maladaptive and inconsistent with the patient's developmental level and that **persist for at least 6 months.** 

Patient Name
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## To be diagnosed with ADHD, the patient must have the following:

- ☐ Some symptoms of hyperactivity-impulsivity or inattention present before 7 years of age
- ☐ Some impairment observed in at least 2 settings (eg, school and home)
- ☐ Clear evidence of interference with social, academic, or work function
- □ No other mental disorders present (eg, mood disorder, anxiety disorder, dissociative disorder, or personality disorder)
- ☐ 6 or more symptoms of inattention AND/OR 6 or more symptoms of hyperactivity-impulsivity

### Symptoms of inattention

- Often fails to pay close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities
- Often has difficulty maintaining focus on tasks or play activity
- Often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
- ☐ Often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores, or other responsibilities (not due to oppositional behavior or failure to understand instructions)
- ☐ Often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities
- Often avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to take part in activities that require continuous mental effort, such as schoolwork or homework
- ☐ Often loses things needed for tasks or activities, such as toys, assignments, books, or tools
- ☐ Is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
- ☐ Is often forgetful in daily activities

### Symptoms of hyperactivity

- Often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat
- Often runs around or climbs excessively in situations in which it is not appropriate
- Often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which staying seated is expected
- Often has difficulty playing or engaging in leisure activities quietly
- ☐ Is often "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor"
- Often talks excessively

#### Symptoms of impulsivity

- Often blurts out answers before questions have been completed
- Often has difficulty waiting for turn
- Often interrupts or intrudes on others (eg, butting into conversations or games)

\*Adapted from American Psychiatric Association: *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, Text Revision. Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2000.

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