

# **Standardized Diagnosis of Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in the Primary Care Setting**

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## **Background & Objectives**

Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) has historically been considered a childhood condition, but there is an estimated persistence rate of ADHD into adulthood of 50-60%. This implies that possibly 2-4% of the adult population is affected by ADHD. While the DSM-IV criteria for ADHD can be applied to adults, these criteria tend to reflect presentations more commonly seen in children and do not describe the often subtle cognitive-behavioral symptoms that may affect adults more than children. Our purpose was to develop a diagnostic tool that will aid in this screening/diagnosis.

## **Methods**

We evaluated currently available diagnostic tools for adult ADHD and used these to develop a template to be used in a primary care setting. By standardizing this tool, it may increase the accuracy of the adult ADHD diagnosis.

## **Results**

A standardized template has been developed that encompasses DSM-IV criteria plus other traits commonly seen in the adult ADHD population with future plans to implement and measure use of the template.

## **Conclusions**

Over the next academic year, electronic medical records will be reviewed to assess previous diagnostic methodologies for adult ADHD and compared with the use of the current diagnostic template.