

Diagnostic Assessment of ADHD in Adulthood

Diagnoses of ADHD rose sharply during the pandemic years, and the CDC released updated US prevalence rates of adult ADHD placing it near the top of the most common psychiatric diagnoses. Nevertheless, adult ADHD is still considered one of the most misdiagnosed conditions, suffering from problems of both over- and under-diagnosis. This may be due to the fact most practicing mental health clinicians have not received any formal training in the diagnostic assessment of ADHD in adulthood. This webinar provides a model for a comprehensive diagnostic assessment of ADHD in adults that can be used by clinicians in practice to increase diagnostic accuracy. Issues related to DSM-5-TR diagnostic criteria including symptoms, prevalence and persistence, age of onset, as well as presentations and problems characteristic of ADHD that are not included in the official criteria will be discussed. Diagnostic issues related to key differential diagnoses and comorbidity patterns, available screening and symptom questionnaires and other tools for documenting impairment and dealing with issues of malingering, as well as informing clients when their difficulties are not consistent with a diagnosis of ADHD will be discussed.

Psychologists
Therapists

Target Audience

Social Workers
Psychiatrists
Counselors
Nurses

Course Level: Intermediate

- ### Learning Objectives
- At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:
- 1. Summarize the components required for a diagnosis of ADHD in adulthood as defined by DSM-5-TR, including critiques of some existing criteria.
 - 2. Summarize a wider view of symptoms of ADHD beyond those outlined in DSM-5-TR criteria to adequately assess for the presence of the ADHD symptoms drawing from contemporary models of ADHD.
 - 3. Cite at least one screening measure that can be used in clinical practice to determine if a more thorough ADHD evaluation is indicated.
 - 4. Name the preferred, recommended clinical method for verifying symptoms of ADHD as part of a diagnostic evaluation for adult ADHD.
 - 5. Name at least one self-report adult ADHD symptoms questionnaire that can be used as part of an overarching ADHD evaluation.

Outline

BEGIN 12 PM ET

Current DSM-5 diagnostic requirements
Models for understanding and “seeing” ADHD symptoms
Prevalence and persistence of ADHD in adulthood
Common impairments observed in cases of ADHD

BREAK 1:30 PM ET (15 minutes)

Comprehensive diagnostic assessment
Screening
Clinical/Developmental Interview
Developmental history
Family History
Educational History
College
Occupational History
Social and Interpersonal History
Structured Diagnostic Interview/Differential Diagnoses
Review of Clinical Inventories
Feedback Session
Review of useful inventories, questionnaires and other diagnostic tools
Testing (What it can and cannot do)
What if a patient does not have ADHD?
Malingering

CONCLUSION 3:15 PM ET

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The Presenter

Dr. J. Russell (“Russ”) Ramsay is co-founder and co-director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Adult ADHD Treatment and Research Program and an associate professor of clinical psychology in the department of psychiatry in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ramsay received his PhD in clinical psychology from Palo Alto University. He completed an APA-approved pre-doctoral internship at CPC Behavioral Healthcare in Red Bank, New Jersey, and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Cognitive Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ramsay has authored numerous peer-reviewed professional and scientific articles, research abstracts, as well as many book chapters. He is author of Nonmedication Treatments for Adult ADHD (2010); Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adult ADHD (with Dr. Anthony Rostain, 2015), which is in its second edition; and its companion patient guidebook, The Adult ADHD Tool Kit (also with Dr. Anthony Rostain, 2015). The Adult ADHD Tool Kit has been translated into Spanish (Kindle version), French-Canadian, and is in the process of being translated to Korean. It has been designated as a recommended self-help book by the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Dr. Ramsay was an invited contributor to the American Psychological Association’s Psychotherapy Video Training Series with the video, Adults with ADHD. His most recent book is Rethinking Adult ADHD: Helping Clients Turn Intentions into Action (2020).

Dr. Ramsay is an inductee in the CHADD Hall of Fame and received the Szuba Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching & Research from the University of Pennsylvania. He serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Attention Disorders. He has served terms on the Professional Advisory Boards (PAB) of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (including serving as PAB co-chair), CHADD, and on the Board of the American Professional Society of ADHD and Related Disorders (APSARD). He is a regular blogger through the Psychology Today website.

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