



REFERRAL GUIDELINE

**Developmental-
Behavioral Pediatrics**

Complex ADHD

Guidelines Referenced	ADHD Clinical Practice Guideline, AAP 2011 (In ADHD Toolkit).	
Background	“Complex ADHD” refers to ADHD with associated developmental, learning and mental health conditions. Existing guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of ADHD address screening for common comorbid conditions, but do not address integrated, comprehensive management of ADHD with comorbid learning and mental health conditions. Although some children with complex ADHD can be effectively managed in their primary care medical home, others will benefit from referral and co-management.	
Initial Evaluation	<p>As per MHP ADHD Toolkit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify relevant medical, family, and social history Identify concerns about developmental and learning difficulties Identify concerns about mental health conditions 	
Initial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request relevant school records, such as teacher narrative, Vanderbilt scales, IEP, previous psychological testing Address mental health concerns (see AAP: Addressing Mental Health in Primary Care Toolkit) Titrate doses of ADHD medication to optimize response Determine if learning and mental health concerns improve on follow up with management of ADHD 	
Pre-Visit Work Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> F/U Parent and Teacher Vanderbilt Scales Grades, other school reports, previous psychological testing ADHD-related Medication history Relevant medical records and subspecialty consults, e.g., psychiatry, neurology, cardiology Developmental/Mental health checklists and questionnaires, e.g. PSC, PHQ, SCARED, SCQ 	
When to Refer	<p>PCP suspects complex ADHD (presence of associated I/DD, LD, ASD, anxiety disorder, tic disorder), <i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate response to treatment Increasing school failure and/or mental health concerns 	
Co-management Strategy (as appropriate)	<p>Specialist scope of care</p> <p>Medication management Child and Family therapy Developmental therapies Further evaluation as needed</p>	<p>Primary care scope of care</p> <p>General health supervision Medication management</p>
Return to Primary Care Endpoint	Stability, improvement of symptoms	