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# My Child Is on Medication for Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder



## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

For many children, medications for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) can decrease hyperactivity and help them to focus. Sometimes doctors will try several medications or different dosages to find the one that works. Therefore, it is important for your child’s doctor to monitor them very closely.

### Types of Medications often used to treat ADHD:

#### Stimulants

These are medications that increase chemicals in the brain that help with thinking and paying attention. If your child is on a stimulant, you need to talk with your child’s doctor if they have any of these symptoms:

- ✓ A decreased appetite.
- ✓ Trouble sleeping.
- ✓ Sudden and repeating movements or sounds.
- ✓ Changes in their personality.
- ✓ An increase in anxiety or irritability.
- ✓ Complaints of stomachaches.
- ✓ Complaints of headaches.

#### Non-stimulants

These are medications doctors sometimes prescribe if a stimulant is not working, or a child has side effects from a stimulant. These take longer to start working but can help with thinking and paying attention.



### It is important for you and your child’s doctor to work together to find what works best for your child.

It is recommended that your child have at least one follow-up visit with their doctor within 30 days after first starting a medication. You should also have at least two additional visits within nine months after starting the medication. This follow-up is to make sure the medication is working correctly.



### Delaware First Health is also here to help.

Please call us toll-free at **1-877-236-1341** (TTY: **711**), Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern time. We can help you find a doctor or connect you with one of our care managers. They can help you and answer your questions.

Sources: National Institute of Mental Health. (2019). Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. NIMH » Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (nih.gov)

National Committee for Quality Assurance. (2020). Follow-up care for children prescribed ADHD medication. Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication - NCQA

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Delaware First Health is proud to be your healthcare partner. If you have questions, call us at **1-877-236-1341** (TTY: **711**). We’re here to help!

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