

LATEST VERSION OF CONNERS RATING SCALES FOR ADHD AND RELATED CONDITIONS

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Rating scales have proven to be useful tools for assessment, treatment monitoring, research, and education, particularly for ADHD and related conditions. Earlier versions were created in the 1960's and have been revised several times. They have contributed not only to the practical aspects of individual clinical assessment, but also to the evolving understanding of psychiatric nosology in general.

There are now two distinct sets of scales: the third revision of the familiar ADHD scales that include closely related "externalizing" disorders such as aggressive behavior, oppositional, and peer related social problems (designated as C3); and a more comprehensive set of scales (CBRS) related to a wide range of "internalizing" mood, anxiety, developmental, and behavioral disturbances. For both types of scales there are empirically-derived factors based upon extensive census-based age and gender norms, as well as scales based upon exact DSM-IV diagnostic criteria.

C3 Content Scales: The C3 *empirical scales* include inattention, hyperactivity/impulsivity, Learning problems, executive functioning, aggression, peer relations, and family relations. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-4)* scales include the 3 subtypes of ADHD, conduct disorder, and oppositional-defiant disorder. There is a special scale for detecting critical violent behavior. There are also screener items for anxiety and depression. *Impairment items* include schoolwork and grades, friendships and relationships, and home life.

CBRS Content Scales: *Empirical Scales* include Emotional distress (upsetting thoughts, worrying, social problems), physical symptoms, separation fears, social anxiety, aggressive behaviors, academic difficulties, (language and math), violence potential. *DSM disorders* include major depressive episode, manic episode, mixed episode, generalized anxiety disorder, separation anxiety disorder, social phobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder, ADHD subtypes, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder. Other clinical indicators include Bullying (victimization and perpetration), enuresis/encopresis, panic attack, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Pica, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Specific Phobia, Substance Use, Tics, and Trichotillomania.

There are separate versions for patient self-report, parent report, and teacher report. There are both short and long versions for situations when brevity might be required (such as repeated assessments over time); or longer versions when initial more comprehensive assessment is indicated. Several new refinements have been added: validity scales that detect inconsistent reporting or excessive positive or

negative bias; measures of impairment as well as symptom severity; index scores reflecting the probability of a clinical diagnostic severity; online scoring through internet connection; comprehensive reports that include standard error of measurement and estimates of statistically significant change.

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