

# **NICHQ Vanderbilt Assessment Scales**

Used for diagnosing ADHD



Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Each rating should be considered in the context of what is appropriate for the age of your child. Please think about your child's behaviors since the last assessment scale was filled out when rating his/her behaviors.

Is this evaluation based on a time when the child  was on medication  was not on medication  not sure?

| Symptoms  | Never | Occasionally | Often | Very Often |
|---|-------|--------------|-------|------------|
| 1. Does not pay attention to details or makes careless mistakes with, for example, homework                                   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 2. Has difficulty keeping attention to what needs to be done  | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 3. Does not seem to listen when spoken to directly  | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 4. Does not follow through when given directions and fails to finish activities (not due to refusal or failure to understand) | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 5. Has difficulty organizing tasks and activities   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 6. Avoids, dislikes, or does not want to start tasks that require ongoing mental effort                                       | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 7. Loses things necessary for tasks or activities (toys, assignments, pencils, or books)                                      | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 8. Is easily distracted by noises or other stimuli  | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 9. Is forgetful in daily activities   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 10. Fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 11. Leaves seat when remaining seated is expected   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 12. Runs about or climbs too much when remaining seated is expected   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 13. Has difficulty playing or beginning quiet play activities   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 14. Is "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor"  | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 15. Talks too much  | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 16. Blurts out answers before questions have been completed   | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 17. Has difficulty waiting his or her turn  | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |
| 18. Interrupts or intrudes in on others' conversations and/or activities  | 0     | 1            | 2     | 3          |

| Performance   | Excellent | Above Average | Average | Somewhat of a Problem | Problematic |
|---|-----------|---------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 19. Overall school performance                        | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |
| 20. Reading   | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |
| 21. Writing   | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |
| 22. Mathematics                                       | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |
| 23. Relationship with parents                         | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |
| 24. Relationship with siblings                        | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |
| 25. Relationship with peers                           | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |
| 26. Participation in organized activities (eg, teams) | 1         | 2             | 3       | 4                     | 5           |

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

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Adapted from the Vanderbilt Rating Scales developed by Mark L. Wolraich, MD.

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Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

| Side Effects: Has your child experienced any of the following side effects or problems in the past week? | Are these side effects currently a problem? |      |          |        |
|--|---|------|----------|--------|
|  | None  | Mild | Moderate | Severe |
| Headache   |   |      |          |        |
| Stomachache  |   |      |          |        |
| Change of appetite—explain below   |   |      |          |        |
| Trouble sleeping   |   |      |          |        |
| Irritability in the late morning, late afternoon, or evening—explain below                               |   |      |          |        |
| Socially withdrawn—decreased interaction with others   |   |      |          |        |
| Extreme sadness or unusual crying  |   |      |          |        |
| Dull, tired, listless behavior   |   |      |          |        |
| Tremors/feeling shaky  |   |      |          |        |
| Repetitive movements, tics, jerking, twitching, eye blinking—explain below                               |   |      |          |        |
| Picking at skin or fingers, nail biting, lip or cheek chewing—explain below                              |   |      |          |        |
| Sees or hears things that aren't there   |   |      |          |        |

**Explain/Comments:**

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>For Office Use Only</b></p> <p>Total Symptom Score for questions 1–18: _____</p> <p>Average Performance Score for questions 19–26: _____</p> |
|--|

Adapted from the Pittsburgh side effects scale, developed by William E. Pelham, Jr, PhD.

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## Scoring Instructions for the NICHQ Vanderbilt Assessment Scales

These scales should **NOT** be used alone to make any diagnosis. You must take into consideration information from multiple sources. Scores of 2 or 3 on a single Symptom question reflect *often-occurring* behaviors. Scores of 4 or 5 on Performance questions reflect problems in performance.

The initial assessment scales, parent and teacher, have 2 components: symptom assessment and impairment in performance. On both the parent and teacher initial scales, the symptom assessment screens for symptoms that meet criteria for both inattentive (items 1–9) and hyperactive ADHD (items 10–18).

To meet *DSM-IV* criteria for the diagnosis, one must have at least 6 positive responses to either the inattentive 9 or hyperactive 9 core symptoms, or both. A positive response is a 2 or 3 (often, very often) (you could draw a line straight down the page and count the positive answers in each subsegment). There is a place to

record the number of positives in each subsegment, and a place for total score for the first 18 symptoms (just add them up).

The initial scales also have symptom screens for 3 other co-morbidities—oppositional-defiant, conduct, and anxiety/depression. These are screened by the number of positive responses in each of the segments separated by the “squares.” The specific item sets and numbers of positives required for each co-morbid symptom screen set are detailed below.

The second section of the scale has a set of performance measures, scored 1 to 5, with 4 and 5 being somewhat of a problem/problematic. To meet criteria for ADHD there must be at least one item of the Performance set in which the child scores a 4 or 5; ie, there must be impairment, not just symptoms to meet diagnostic criteria. The sheet has a place to record the number of positives (4s, 5s) and an Average Performance Score—add them up and divide by number of Performance criteria answered.

| Parent Assessment Scale   | Teacher Assessment Scale  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Predominantly Inattentive subtype</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 6 out of 9 items on questions 1–9 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 48–55</li> </ul> <p><b>Predominantly Hyperactive/Impulsive subtype</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 6 out of 9 items on questions 10–18 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 48–55</li> </ul> <p><b>ADHD Combined Inattention/Hyperactivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Requires the above criteria on both inattention and hyperactivity/impulsivity</li> </ul> <p><b>Oppositional-Defiant Disorder Screen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 4 out of 8 behaviors on questions 19–26 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 48–55</li> </ul> <p><b>Conduct Disorder Screen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 3 out of 14 behaviors on questions 27–40 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 48–55</li> </ul> <p><b>Anxiety/Depression Screen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 3 out of 7 behaviors on questions 41–47 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 48–55</li> </ul> | <p><b>Predominantly Inattentive subtype</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 6 out of 9 items on questions 1–9 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 36–43</li> </ul> <p><b>Predominantly Hyperactive/Impulsive subtype</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 6 out of 9 items on questions 10–18 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 36–43</li> </ul> <p><b>ADHD Combined Inattention/Hyperactivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Requires the above criteria on both inattention and hyperactivity/impulsivity</li> </ul> <p><b>Oppositional-Defiant/Conduct Disorder Screen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 3 out of 10 items on questions 19–28 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 36–43</li> </ul> <p><b>Anxiety/Depression Screen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must score a 2 or 3 on 3 out of 7 items on questions 29–35 <u>AND</u></li> <li>■ Score a 4 or 5 on any of the Performance questions 36–43</li> </ul> |

The parent and teacher follow-up scales have the first 18 core ADHD symptoms, not the co-morbid symptoms. The section segment has the same Performance items and impairment assessment as the initial scales, and then has a side-effect reporting scale that can be used to both assess and monitor the presence of adverse reactions to medications prescribed, if any.

Scoring the follow-up scales involves only calculating a total symptom score for items 1–18 that can be tracked over time, and

the average of the Performance items answered as measures of improvement over time with treatment.

### Parent Assessment Follow-up

- Calculate Total Symptom Score for questions 1–18.
- Calculate Average Performance Score for questions 19–26.

### Teacher Assessment Follow-up

- Calculate Total Symptom Score for questions 1–18.
- Calculate Average Performance Score for questions 19–26.

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

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