



# Effective Health Care

## Treatment of ADHD in Children Nomination Summary Document

### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Treatment of ADHD in children will go forward for refinement as a comparative effectiveness review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

### Topic Description

**Nominators:** 1 public payer, 1 national non-governmental advisory group

**Nomination Summary:** This topic represents nominations from two groups. The nominations include all forms of treatment for ADHD in children including medications and behavioral health (or psychotherapeutic) interventions. The nominations question the effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of medication, behavioral treatment, and a combination of both. One of the nominators is specifically interested in the treatment of young children (those younger than five) and the other nominator is interested in children of all ages.

From nominator 1 (public payer):

**Population(s):** Children under the age of 5 with a diagnosis of ADHD

**Intervention(s):** Treatment of young children with psychopharmaceuticals and behavioral interventions for ADHD

**Comparator(s):** Treatment of young children with just psychopharmaceuticals or with just behavioral interventions, but not in combination with each other.

**Outcome(s):** Parent/school/caregiver reports of improved behavior

**Key Questions  
from Nominators:** None

### Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)

- There is a need for robust, high-quality, non-specialized, and easily accessible information about this topic, as it represents uncertainty for both clinicians and policy decision makers.
- There is ongoing research within the EHC Program that focuses on ADHD in adolescents and young adults; therefore, the scope of this topic is likely to focus on children aged 2-12 years. The ability of the review to reach strong conclusions about the safety and efficacy of treatments in the preschool population may be constrained by the limited data available on treatment of ADHD in this population.