

Informant Interview Checklist

Gathering collateral history for ADHD assessment · DSM-5 & NICE NG87 aligned

Why gather informant information?

DSM-5 requires evidence of symptom onset before age 12. Adults often struggle to recall childhood accurately, so an informant who knew them as a child (parent, older sibling, close relative) provides essential corroborating evidence.

Patient name:

Date:

Informant name:

Relationship to patient:

Years known / from what age:

Interview method:

SECTION A · ESTABLISHING CONTEXT

Informant's relationship and length of time knowing the patient confirmed

Period of the patient's life the informant can speak to (esp. before age 12)

Informant understands the purpose is to describe childhood behaviour

Consent confirmed for informant to share information

SECTION B · CHILDHOOD INATTENTION

Ask for specific examples

Struggled to focus in class or on homework / easily bored

Made careless mistakes; work was rushed or incomplete

Seemed not to listen even when spoken to directly

Frequently lost belongings (books, toys, PE kit, coat)

Forgetful, disorganised, or messy despite reminders

Easily distracted; daydreamed or was 'in their own world'

SECTION C · CHILDHOOD HYPERACTIVITY / IMPULSIVITY*Ask for specific examples*

Fidgety, restless, or 'always on the go' as a child

Difficulty staying seated (at meals, in class, during activities)

Ran or climbed excessively; struggled to play quietly

Talked excessively; interrupted others frequently

Impatient; struggled to wait their turn or take turns

Acted without thinking; accident-prone or impulsive

SECTION D · IMPACT & FUNCTIONING IN CHILDHOOD

Difficulties noticed across settings (home AND school)

School reports mentioned concentration, behaviour, or effort

Academic underachievement relative to apparent ability

Friendships or peer relationships affected

Behaviour caused conflict or concern at home

SECTION E · OPEN PROMPTS*Record informant's own words*

- How would you describe the patient as a child in a few words?
- What did teachers or school reports say about them?

SECTION F · SUMMARY & CORROBORATION

Childhood symptom onset (before age 12) supported by informant

Informant account consistent with patient's self-report

Any significant discrepancies noted and explored

Clinician:**Date:**