

# ADHD Medication Flow Chart

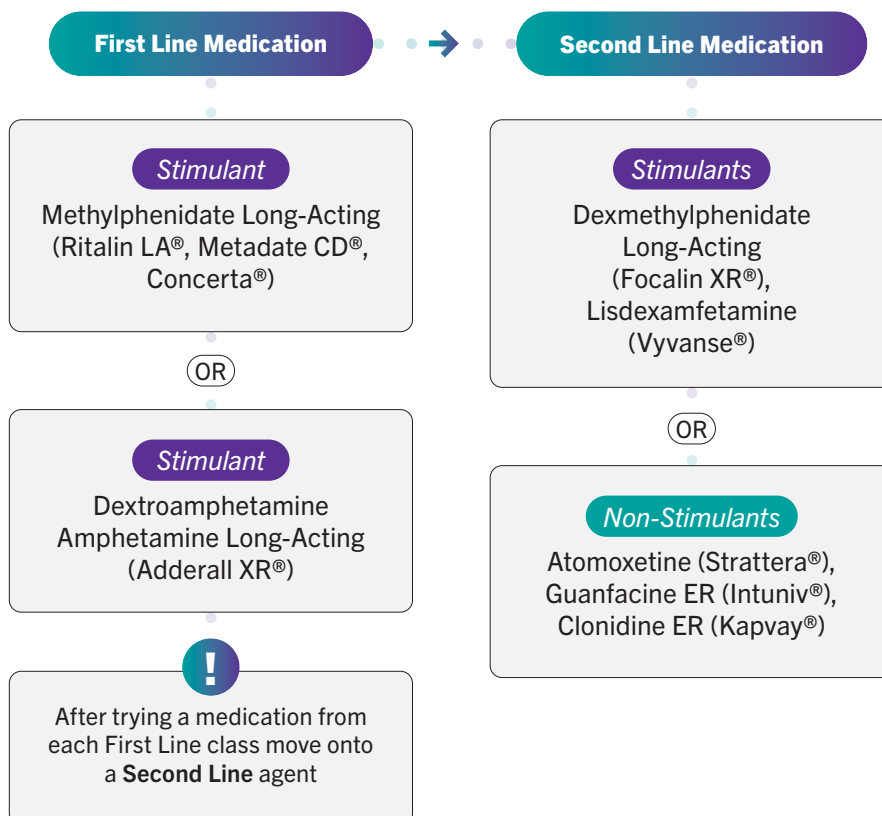
## for Children ≥ 6 Years Old

Start with a first line medication, either from the methylphenidate or dextroamphetamine-amphetamine class.

- ! Start at minimum dose and titrate up every two weeks until you reach the average effective dose.
- ! Maximize dosing of one agent before moving to the next. If ineffective or side effects develop then move to second line medication if needed.
- ! Long acting medications are preferred for school-age children. An immediate release formulation can be added in the afternoon if needed for increased duration.

### Screening Tools

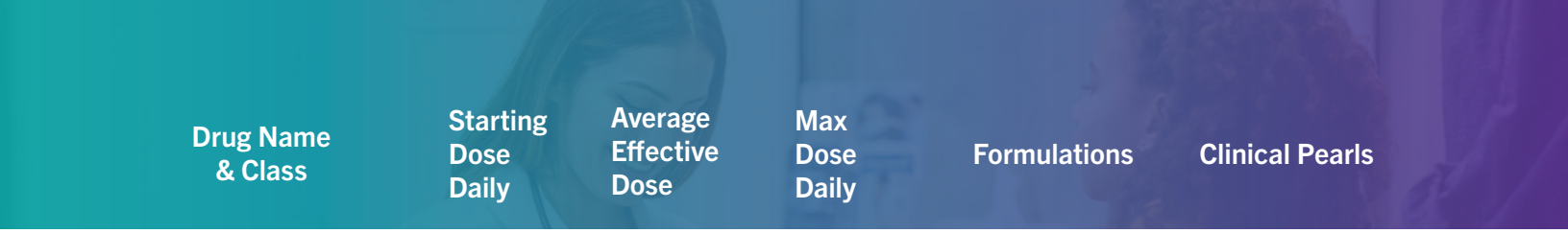
- [Vanderbilt Assessment Scales](#) is most commonly used to diagnose children 6-12 years old.
  - Parent rating in office plus copy for teacher(s) to complete
- [Use and Interpretation of Vanderbilt Score](#)



Scan the QR code or click the following links for additional information:

- [Alternative Treatment Algorithm](#)
- [Guide for Dosage Equivalencies When Switching Classes](#)
- [Medicaid Preferred Drug List](#)

**ILDocAssist is always available for any questions or concerns.**  
Visit [illinoisdocassist.uic.edu](http://illinoisdocassist.uic.edu) or call (866) 986-2778



**Drug Name & Class**

**Starting Dose Daily**

**Average Effective Dose**

**Max Dose Daily**

**Formulations**

**Clinical Pearls**

**First Line**

Methylphenidate  
**Long-Acting**  
(Ritalin LA®)

*Stimulant*

10-20 mg

1-2 mg/kg

60 mg

Capsules can be opened and sprinkled

Duration 8-10 hours  
10 mg strength is not available generically

Methylphenidate **Long-Acting** (Metadate CD®)

*Stimulant*

10-20 mg

1-2 mg/kg

60 mg

Capsules can be opened and sprinkled

Duration 8-10 hours

Methylphenidate **Long-Acting** (Concerta®)

*Stimulant*

18 mg

1-2 mg/kg

54 mg (<13y)  
72 mg (≥13y)

Tablet cannot be crushed

Duration 10-12 hours  
May cause skin irritation

Dextroamphetamine  
Amphetamine **Long-Acting** (Adderall XR®)

*Stimulant*

5-10 mg

0.5 mg/kg

40 mg

Capsules can be opened and sprinkled

Duration 10-12 hours

**Second Line**

Dexmethylphenidate  
**Long-Acting**  
(Focalin XR®)

*Stimulant*

5 mg

0.5-1 mg/kg

30 mg

Capsules can be opened and sprinkled

Duration 10-12 hours  
When switching from methylphenidate, reduce dose by half  
25 mg & 35 mg strengths are not yet available generically

Lisdexamfetamine  
(Vyvanse®)

*Stimulant*

20 mg

1-2 mg/kg

70 mg

Can be opened and dissolved in liquid; also comes in chewable form

Duration 10-12 hours

Atomoxetine  
(Strattera®)

*Non-Stimulant*

0.5 mg/kg

1.4 mg/kg  
100 mg

Cannot be opened or crushed

Must be taken daily  
Start at minimum dose and titrate up every three to four weeks until you reach the average effective dose

Guanfacine  
(Tenex®)

*Non-Stimulant*

0.5 mg

4 mg

No formulations specified

Taper when discontinuing

Guanfacine ER  
(Intuniv®)

*Non-Stimulant*

1 mg

4 mg

Tablet cannot be opened or crushed

Must be taken daily  
Taper when discontinuing  
1mg intuniv = 0.66 guanfacine IR

Clonidine ER  
(Kapvay®)

*Non-Stimulant*

0.1 mg

0.4 mg

Tablet cannot be opened or crushed

Taper when discontinuing