



PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING AMA ADVOCACY WITH RESPECT TO ADHD

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DEVELOPED BY MEMBERS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
AND COUNCIL OF GENERAL PRACTICE

ENDORSED BY FEDERAL COUNCIL



PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING AMA ADVOCACY WITH ADHD

- ADHD is chronic neurodevelopment condition that is dynamic across an individual's life.
- Access to early diagnosis and intervention can make a real difference to outcomes for people with ADHD. However, patients face significant barriers in accessing care due to acknowledged workforce shortages and models of care that do not give significant recognition to the skills and expertise of general practitioners.
- The AMA supports an expanded role for general practitioners (GPs) in relation to the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD that is based on the following approach:
 - A continued focus on the development of models of care that support the provision of high-quality care for patients including appropriate medical diagnosis and treatment.
 - Policy decisions with respect to the diagnosis and/or treatment of ADHD should be based on the best available advice of the relevant medical colleges.
 - The achievement of national agreement on the harmonisation of state/territory poisons legislation to ensure nationally uniform rules with respect to who can prescribe ADHD medications and in what circumstances.
 - Development of joint clinical guidelines by the relevant medical colleges working to support GPs in an expanded role and incorporation of medication and non-medication supports.
 - Ensuring GPs have access to non-GP specialist support where clinically appropriate.
 - The encouragement of collaborative models of care between GPs, non-GP specialists and other mental health care professionals.
 - Development of clinically validated tools by colleges to assist patients wanting to self-assess, prior to seeking help.
 - Accredited education opportunities for GPs, including use and review of medication and non-medication supports.



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