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Dear Colleague:

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is challenging for children, families, schools, and clinicians. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has developed this toolkit to assist clinicians in providing quality care for children with ADHD. An unrestricted educational grant to support the development, production, and dissemination of this toolkit was provided by McNeil Consumer and Specialty Pharmaceuticals.

Rooted in the evidence-based AAP guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of children with ADHD, this toolkit provides excellent resources for clinicians. These tools can provide the basis for a coordinated, integrated, and multidisciplinary system of care. We hope to encourage collaboration among primary care professionals, school personnel, parents, and children.

Using initial development funds from the Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERTs) at the University of North Carolina, funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (federal grant 5 U18 HS10397—"Rational Therapeutics for the Pediatric Population"), the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) worked with experts to identify and catalog resources to assist clinicians who care for children with ADHD. The 75 tools initially collected included those in the public domain and those contributed by clinical and educational specialists. NICHQ worked with the AAP ADHD Guidelines Implementation Project Advisory Committee to cull the library of tools to a manageable number that could be tested and adapted more easily. The 30 primary care practices participating in NICHQ's Learning Collaborative, Improving Care for Children with ADHD, used and modified the tools; 4 of these practices, from the AAP Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) network, worked closely with NICHQ staff to give specific feedback and suggestions for improvement (Panorama Pediatrics Group, Rochester, NY; St Johnsbury Pediatrics, St Johnsbury, VT; Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit; and Nemours and Orlando Regional Healthcare Pediatric Outpatient Department, Orlando, FL). Finally, Harlan Gephart, MD, and Laurel Leslie, MD, reviewed the revised tools, ensuring that they are accurate and user-friendly.

Additional forms can be downloaded from the AAP Members Only Channel on the AAP Web site (www.aap.org/moc). The AAP online program, Education for Quality Improvement for Pediatric Practice (eQIPP), will have a module on ADHD available in spring 2003 that will provide downloadable tools and interactive case scenarios. The AAP is committed to exploring opportunities to update the toolkit to ensure users have the most current and timely resources available.

We hope this toolkit will serve as a valuable resource in your practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe M. Sanders, Jr. MD".

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