



## Update on Prescription Medicines for ADD/ADHD

Dear Parent,

Recently Peachtree Park Pediatrics updated our policy and procedures on prescribing medicines for children with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This letter summarizes our current policy.

### Highlights:

- **Children stable on medicine will be seen every 6 months**
- **Children will need to be seen in the office when changing medication or dosage**
- **When medication is started or changed, children will need to be seen 1 month later and then every 3 months until the dosage is stabilized**
- **When stable on a medication and dose, prescriptions will typically be written for 3 months at a time**
- **All ADD medication prescriptions require 3 business days' notice**

ADD/ADHD are chronic medical condition and the medications used to treat ADD/ADHD have known side effects. In keeping with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), patients with ADD/ADHD should have regular follow-up to discuss your concerns, to ensure that the medication your child is on is effective, the dose is optimal, and side effects are clinically insignificant.

The AAP recommends that every child starting a new medication should be seen within a month and then twice in the next 9 months. This includes children starting medicine for the first time and those switching to a new medicine. The AAP recommends that children who are stable on a medication should be seen every 3-6 months.

These targeted visits are an opportunity to address the child's behavioral and academic functioning; periodically assess height, weight, blood pressure, and pulse; and assess for the emergence of other disorders and medical conditions we know can occur with ADD/ADHD, such as anxiety.

In order to provide the best possible care to your child and ensure that we are addressing all of your concerns, we will now require that any child with ADD/ADHD who is stable on a particular medication, be seen at a minimum of **every (6) months starting June 13th, 2016. (Annual check-ups and ADD/ADHD visits in between)**

If a medication is started or changed, you will be required to come back in 1 month and then **every (3) months until a stable dose is achieved.**

Nurses and Physicians will no longer be changing medications, titrating up/down medications, or adding on a medication over the phone if your child has not been seen in the past 3 months. If you feel your child may need a different medication you will need to schedule an appointment.

### Prescriptions:

Renewals for ADD medications require **3 business days' notice** to allow sufficient time to prepare the prescription and obtain the signature of your child's regular doctor. PPP will continue to mail prescriptions if the parent desires, though we may require pick-up at the office in the future.

Once a child is on a stable dose of medication, prescriptions will typically be written as 3 one-month prescriptions, one to be filled on the date written, the second to be filled one month later and the third to be filled two months later. If your insurance allows, we can also write a 90-day mail-order prescription.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we make this transition. The changes we have implemented are in keeping with standard of care accepted by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. We believe these changes will allow for more effective management and better care of your child's ADD/ADHD.

Sincerely,

The Physicians of Peachtree Park Pediatrics

6/13/2016

POS Reorder # 1610520