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Special Note for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) TUE Applications

Athletes who have ADHD and who have been prescribed the use of a prohibited substance and need to apply for a TUE should take note of the important information below from the WADA Medical Information to Support the Decisions of TUE Committees on the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Children and Adults. This document is available at the following link: https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/therapeutic-use-exemption-tue/medical-information-to-support-the-decisions-of-tuecs-adhd

The essential feature of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder is a persistent pattern of inattention and or hyperactivity-impulsivity that interferes with functioning and development. The requirement that several symptoms be present before age 12 years conveys the importance of a substantial clinical presentation during childhood. Manifestations of the disorder must be present in more than one setting (e.g. home, school, work). There is an exclusion that the symptoms should not occur exclusively during the course of schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder and are not better explained by another mental disorder (e.g. mood disorder, anxiety disorder, dissociative disorder, personality disorder, substance intoxication or withdrawal)¹.

The criteria in the hyperlink above will be used as a reference when evaluating the supporting documentation pertaining to granting a TUE for the treatment of ADHD.

¹ American Psychiatric Association, The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association; 2013