CONNERS CBRS® 2

Conners Comprehensive Behavior Rating Scales™ 2nd Edition

Maximizing the Impact of Conners CBRS® 2 for Differential Diagnosis and Eligibility Determination

Youth receiving psychological services often present with complex, overlapping behavioral, emotional, social, and academic concerns. In both clinical and educational settings, making well-informed decisions requires more than isolated symptom counts. It requires a structured understanding of how concerns cluster, how they differ across settings, and how much they impact daily functioning. The need is especially urgent in the context of rising youth mental health concerns and increasing pressure on professionals to make sound, timely decisions with limited resources.

The Conners Comprehensive Behavior Rating Scales™ 2nd Edition (Conners CBRS® 2) is a broadband tool that delivers both breadth and depth, from initial screening to confident next steps. Designed to be used with youth aged 6–18 years, Conners CBRS 2 is a multi-rater tool that evaluates behavioral, emotional, social, and academic functioning across Parent, Teacher, and Self-Report perspectives. By integrating multiple viewpoints within a structured, evidence-based framework, Conners CBRS 2 helps professionals move toward informed diagnostic, eligibility, and intervention decisions.

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A modern framework for understanding functioning

Conners CBRS 2 is built to support differential consideration across a wide range of presentations. It helps detect meaningful symptom patterns, identify the severity and functional impact of concerns, differentiate between overlapping presentations, and determine where more targeted follow-up assessment may be needed. In school settings, findings can support eligibility, re-evaluation, and service-planning decisions. In clinical settings, results can support diagnostic clarification, treatment planning, and progress monitoring over time.

Conners CBRS 2 uses a domain-based framework (**Strengths, Neurodevelopmental, Externalizing, Internalizing**) to organize results into meaningful patterns, helping professionals understand how concerns may extend beyond traditional diagnostic categories.

Screen	Assess	Identify	Monitor
Detect potential areas of concern using Conners CBRS 2 as the broadband entry point.	Content and DSM Symptom Scale scores reveal patterns across the Strengths Domains, Neurodevelopmental, Externalizing, and Internalizing. Cross-form alignment between Parent, Teacher, and Self-Report supports multi-informant interpretation and a more complete understanding of symptom presentation.	Elevated domains and scales guide targeted follow-up with narrowband measures (e.g., Conners 4th Edition™ (Conners 4®) for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Rating Scales™ (ASRS®) for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Comprehensive Executive Function Inventory™ (CEFI®) for executive function, Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children 2nd Edition™ (MASC 2®) for anxiety, or Children's Depression Inventory 2nd Edition™ (CDI 2®) for depression).	Re-administer to measure progress; results can guide Individual Education Plans (IEPs), treatment targets, and intervention planning.

Supporting differential diagnosis and eligibility decisions

When presentations are complex and overlapping, Conners CBRS 2 helps differentiate what is primary, what is co-occurring, and what requires deeper follow-up, while anchoring decisions in standardized, multi-informant evidence.

Decision Need	How Conners CBRS 2 Supports It	Example in Practice
Prioritizing areas of concern	Organizes results into Neurodevelopmental, Externalizing, and Internalizing Domains, helping identify patterns of elevation rather than relying on isolated symptoms.	A student is described as irritable and emotionally reactive. Results reveal greater elevations in the Externalizing Domain than in the Neurodevelopmental or Internalizing Domains, guiding follow-up toward potential situational factors (e.g., environmental stressors or unmet needs), rather than focusing primarily on mood-driven interpretation.

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Decision Need	How Conners CBRS 2 Supports It	Example in Practice
Distinguishing between overlapping concerns	Provides scale-level detail that helps differentiate between concerns that may present with similar behaviors, guiding targeted follow-up assessment.	A student is referred for attention difficulties. Results show elevated scores on depression-related scales but no significant elevations on ADHD-related scales. These findings suggest that emotional concerns may be contributing to concentration problems and can guide more targeted follow-up assessment.
Identifying co-occurring conditions	Provides broad coverage and DSM-aligned symptom scales, making it easier to detect patterns across multiple disorder areas.	A child presents with impulsivity and emotional distress. Elevated ADHD-related and depression-related scales suggest possible co-occurring attention and mood concerns, prompting further targeted assessment (e.g., Conners 4 and CDI 2).
Understanding behavior across settings	Uses a multi-informant structure (Parent, Teacher, Self-Report) to reveal where symptoms occur and how consistently they appear.	Parent-reports show high emotional distress, but teacher-reports show minimal concerns. This pattern suggests investigating context-specific difficulties (i.e., home-based stressors) rather than generalized impairment.
Connecting symptoms to functional impact	Includes Impairment & Functional Outcome Items to link behaviors to real-world effects (e.g., academic, social, daily functioning).	Elevated anxiety is accompanied by significant school avoidance and peer difficulties, strengthening the case that concerns are impacting functioning, not just present at a mild level.
Guiding next steps in assessment	Helps determine whether broad concerns warrant targeted, narrowband follow-up.	An elevated Neurodevelopmental profile indicates the need for more targeted follow-up assessment of neurodevelopmental concerns (e.g., Conners 4 for ADHD, ASRS for ASD), while elevated Internalizing Domain scores prompt follow-up for anxiety/depression (e.g., MASC 2, CDI 2).
Supporting diagnosis in the clinical space	Provides DSM-aligned symptom scales, domain-level patterns, and multi-informant data to support diagnostic hypotheses within a comprehensive evaluation.	A clinician evaluating a youth for mood concerns sees elevated Internalizing scores, DSM-aligned depression symptoms, and consistent reports across Parent and Self-Report, strengthening confidence in a depressive disorder formulation and informing treatment planning.
Monitoring change over time	Can be re-administered to track changes in symptom patterns and functional outcomes.	After intervention targeting specific concerns (e.g., impulsivity, emotional dysregulation), corresponding scale scores decrease alongside improvements in functional outcomes (e.g., fewer classroom disruptions, improved peer interactions), providing objective evidence of positive intervention response.

By combining broadband insight, multiple perspectives, and a modern interpretive framework, Conners CBRS 2 helps transform complex presentations into clearer clinical understanding. The result is more confident decisions at every stage, from initial concern to targeted assessment and ongoing support.

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Quick Reference: Follow-Up Recommendations

MHS clinical measures are intended to support further investigation of areas of concern identified during assessment. Not every Conners CBRS 2 scale has a corresponding MHS clinical measure available for follow-up; therefore, suggestions apply only where such tools exist. Selection of follow-up tools should be guided by the referral question and the practitioner's professional judgment.

Recommended Products

Conners CBRS 2 Scale	Related Clinical Measure*
DSM Autism Spectrum Disorder Symptoms	**Autism Spectrum Rating Scales™ (ASRS®)**
Emotional Disinhibition Behavioral Disinhibition DSM ADHD Inattentive Symptoms DSM ADHD Hyperactive/Impulsive Symptoms	**Comprehensive Executive Function Inventory™ (CEFI®)**, and/or **Conners 4th Edition™ (Conners® 4)**, and/or **Conners Continuous Performance Tests Online Suite (Conners CPT Online Suite®)**
General Aggression Relational Aggression DSM Oppositional Defiant Disorder Symptoms DSM Conduct Disorder Symptoms	**Anger Regulation and Expression Scales (ARES)®**
Upsetting Thoughts Social Isolation DSM Major Depressive Episode Symptoms	**Children's Depression Inventory 2nd Edition™ (CDI 2®)**
Worrying DSM Generalized Anxiety Disorder Symptoms DSM Separation Anxiety Disorder Symptoms DSM Social Anxiety Disorder Symptoms DSM Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Symptoms	**Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children 2nd Edition™ (MASC 2®)**

**In Conners CBRS 2 reports, follow-up recommendations are indicated when one or more relevant Conners CBRS 2 scales have a T-score ≥ 60, helping guide efficient, targeted next steps.*

Explore Conners CBRS 2

Learn more about features, forms, and administration options.

Have questions or want to see how Conners CBRS 2 fits your practice?

Connect with our team to request more information.

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