

CAARS[™] 2

Comparison with CAARS[™]

Conners Adult ADHD Rating Scales 2nd Edition (CAARS[™] 2), the revision of Conners' Adult ADHD Rating Scales (CAARS[™]), includes changes and improvements to its functionality, accessibility, and assessment content. The tables below highlight these changes.

Reference Area	CAARS [™]	CAARS [™] 2
Administration Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online (email link, local administration) • Paper (Quickscore Forms or Print Paper forms and enter responses via MHS Online Assessment Center+) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online (email link, local administration) • Paper (print paper forms and enter responses via MHS Online Assessment Center+)
Scoring Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Hand-scored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online
Device Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer • Laptop • Mobile device • Tablet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer • Laptop • Mobile device • Tablet
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Version (Self-Report & Observer = 66 items) • Short Version (Self-Report & Observer = 26 items) • Screening Version (Self-Report & Observer = 40 items) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-length (Self-Report & Observer = 97 items) • Short (Self-Report = 55 items; Observer = 52 items) • ADHD Index (Self-Report & Observer = 12 items)
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish (North America) • French (Canada)
Rater Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Report • Observer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Report • Observer



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Reference Area	CAARS™	CAARS™ 2
Age Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years and older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years and older
Normative Sample Age Groups (years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18–29 • 20–39 • 40–49 • 50+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18–24 • 25–29 • 30–39 • 40–49 • 50–59 • 60–69 • 70+
Average Reading Level of Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Report = Grade 5* • Observer = Grade 8* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Report = Grade 4 • Observer = Grade 6
Administration Time (range in minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long version = 10–30 • Short version = 5–15 • Screening version = 5–15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAARS 2 = 10–20 • CAARS 2–Short = 5–10 • CAARS 2–ADHD Index = 1–3
Report Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile Report • Interpretive Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-Rater Report
Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Manual

*Reading levels for the CAARS were calculated using the Dale-Chall formula (Dale & Chall, 1948). These reading levels were recalculated using the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Formula (Flesch, 1948; Kincaid et al., 1975), which is the method used for determining the reading levels for CAARS 2.



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Content Area	CAARS™	CAARS™ 2	Update
Response Style Analysis	—	Negative Impression Index	New; report flags ratings that may be unrealistically negative or problem descriptions that may be exaggerated ^{1,2} .
	Inconsistency Index	Inconsistency Index	Updated item pairs; report flags inconsistent responding ¹ .
	—	Omitted Items	New; report flags omitted items that affect scales (prorated or could not be scored) ^{1,2} .
	—	Pace (online administration only)	New; report flags unusually fast or unusually slow response times for online administrations ^{1,2} .
Associated Clinical Concern Items	—	Critical Items: Suicidal Thoughts/Attempts, Self-Injury	New items to screen for associated areas of concern (suicidality and self-harm) and co-occurring disorders (anxiety and depression) ¹ .
		Screening Items: Anxiety/Worry, Sadness/Emptiness*	
Content Scales	Inattention/Memory Problems	Inattention/Executive Dysfunction	Expanded content to better represent a range of executive function deficits that are often experienced by individuals with ADHD ^{1,2} .
	Hyperactivity/Restlessness	Hyperactivity	Updated item content to include subjective restlessness, as well as verbal and motoric hyperactivity ^{1,2} .
	Impulsivity/Emotional Lability	Impulsivity	Split into two distinct scales to examine each area in more depth ^{1,2} .
		Emotional Dysregulation	
Problems with Self-Concept	Negative Self-Concept	Updated item content to capture self-esteem struggles experienced by individuals with ADHD ^{1,2} .	

*The Self-Report form asks about sadness or emptiness; the Observer form asks only about sadness.

¹Available in the full-length CAARS 2.

²Available in the CAARS 2–Short (Content Scales on the short forms include a subset of items from the full-length forms).



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Content Area	CAARS™	CAARS™ 2	Update
DSM Symptom Scales	DSM-IV ADHD Inattentive Symptoms	DSM ADHD Inattentive Symptoms	Updated item content to align with DSM-5-TR symptom criteria ¹ .
	DSM-IV ADHD Hyperactive-Impulsive Symptoms	DSM ADHD Hyperactive/Impulsive Symptoms	
	DSM-IV Total ADHD Symptoms	DSM Total ADHD Symptoms	
ADHD Index	ADHD Index	CAARS 2-ADHD Index	Improved sensitivity and specificity to optimize accuracy in discriminating between individuals with and without ADHD ^{1,2,3} .
Impairment & Functional Outcome Items	—	Impairment & Functional Outcome Items	New items to assess difficulties in functioning and adverse outcomes related to both specific tasks (e.g., money management, driving) and broad domains (e.g., work, school, relationships) ¹ .
Additional Questions	—	Other Issues/Problems	New open-ended questions to elicit rater comments ^{1,2} .
		Strengths/Skills	

¹Available in the full-length CAARS 2.

²Available in the CAARS 2-Short.

³Available in the CAARS 2-ADHD Index.

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