The majority of students at the College of Charleston do not receive their ADHD stimulant medications through Student Health Services, (SHS). Most students with ADHD continue to receive their medication from their hometown physician. Frequently these doctors have longstanding relationships with the student and his or her family and are comfortable continuing to provide ADHD care to patients who are away at college. Typically the physician will have a procedure to supply the prescriptions for a student’s medications while the student is away at college provided that the patient continues to follow up with the prescribing physician for rechecks. Often, follow up appointments will be scheduled during visits home over long weekends, at seasonal breaks, and the break between semesters. Discuss the options, possibilities, and protocols for this continued care with your current physician prior to your move to the College of Charleston. Please keep in mind that if your physician is located in a state other than South Carolina, the out of state prescriptions for controlled substances such as Ritalin or Adderall will not be filled on an ongoing basis by a pharmacy in South Carolina because of South Carolina controlled substances pharmacy rules. This reality often forces a parent to pick up a prescription from the doctor’s office, fill it at the hometown pharmacy, and then bring or ship the medications to the student in Charleston. This process needs to be carefully considered by all those who will be involved. Some physicians, especially some pediatricians who focus on the care of younger patients, will not be comfortable continuing care for older college bound patients who will be away from home. This is a major reason we recommend students discuss ADHD and other medical care options with their current physician prior to leaving for college.

The second largest group of students receives their ADHD medications from local Charleston area physicians with whom they have established care. These physicians are often psychiatrists or family or internal medicine physicians and are not affiliated with the College of Charleston. A list of local physicians who are interested in providing ADHD care to College of Charleston students is available at SHS or may be downloaded from our website. If you would like assistance in arranging an appointment, please schedule a nurse visit so we may help you establish care with a local physician.

A small percentage of College of Charleston students on stimulant medication for ADHD receive their medication from the physicians working at SHS. Every day the physicians at SHS are busy providing a full range of medical care matched to the needs of all our students. For this reason, we limit the number of students receiving care for ADHD. Currently, we grant priority and focus on providing treatment to those students who are already utilizing academic accommodation for ADHD through the Center for Disability Service’s SNAP program (Students Needing Access Parity). More information on this program is available online at disabilityservices.cofc.edu or SNAP@cofc.edu.