



Diagnostic Assessments for Autistic Spectrum Conditions

including Autism and Aspergers syndrome


brookdale
exclusively autism



Diagnostic Assessment tools

The assessment tools used for identifying Autistic Spectrum Conditions are the ADOS (use with the individual) and ADI-R (used with parents/carers).

ADOS = Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule

The ADOS assessment is a behavioural assessment which involves the social interaction between the assessor and the individual.

It consists of a series of table top tasks that takes between 30 and 60 minutes.

The assessor observes and identifies segments of the individual's behaviour and assigns these to predetermined observational categories.

Categorised observations are subsequently combined to produce quantitative scores for analysis. Research-determined cut-offs identify the potential diagnosis of autism or related autistic spectrum conditions.

There are no invasive procedures involved, and there are no blood tests or tissue samples taken. It is very helpful if the ADOS assessment is video recorded in order to maximise the validity of the assessment process.

ADI-R = Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised

The Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R) is a structured interview conducted with the parents of individuals who have been referred for the evaluation of possible autism or autistic spectrum conditions. The ADI-R takes between 2 and 3 hours to complete, again it is very helpful if this interview is video recorded. The interview covers the referred individual's full developmental history. The interview covers 93 questions, spanning the three main behavioural areas:

- Language/Communication
- Reciprocal Social Interactions
- Restricted, Repetitive and Stereotyped Behaviours and Interests

Following highly standardised procedures, the interviewer records and codes the informant's responses. Interview questions cover eight content areas:

- The subject's background, including family, education, previous diagnoses and medications
- Overview of the subject's behaviour
- Early development and developmental milestones
- Language acquisition and loss of language or other skills
- Current functioning in regard to language and communication
- Social development and play
- Interests and behaviours
- Clinically relevant behaviours, such as aggression, self-injury and possible epileptic features.



Diagnostic Assessments for Autistic Spectrum Conditions

Brookdale Care is pleased to provide diagnostic assessment services for Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

Autistic Spectrum Conditions encompass a range of clinical diagnoses: autism, atypical autism, Asperger's syndrome, Rhett's disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, and pervasive developmental disorder.

This diagnostic service is available for children, four years and above, and adults.

The assessments will be conducted by fully trained clinicians; from the professions of Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Psychiatry, Occupational Therapy, and Psychiatric Nursing. Brookdale Care has 2 autism specialist hospitals in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and the assessment interviews are conducted at one of these sites, alternative locations are possible by arrangement.

There are three levels of Diagnostic Assessments; we can help you to choose the appropriate level based upon the complexity of the presenting problems. The assessments range from a straight forward diagnostic assessment of Autistic Spectrum Condition conducted in a single day; through to a 3 day assessment of Autistic Spectrum Conditions plus assessment of co-morbid psychiatric disorder, assessment of intellectual ability, assessment of communication ability, and assessment of sensory differences.



ASSESSMENT A:

Cost: £980

Diagnostic Assessment of Autistic Spectrum Condition

The assessment will be conducted by a team of 2 clinicians. The aim of Assessment A is to provide a definitive diagnostic opinion about the presence, or not, of an Autistic Spectrum Condition. The participant attends the clinic for a half day assessment session. It is extremely beneficial if the participant is accompanied by a parent so that the ADI-R assessment can be conducted at the same time.

Clinical tools used:

- ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule)
- ADI-R (Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised)

A report of the clinical findings will be written and presented to the participant (if they are adult) or the participant's parent in the case of a child, and a second copy of the report will be presented to the referring authority if that is appropriate.

ASSESSMENT B:

Cost: £1850

Diagnostic assessment of ASC and psychiatric disorders plus the assessment of communication skills and occupational functioning

The participant will be assessed by a team of 2 or 3 clinicians. The aim of Assessment B is to provide a definitive diagnostic opinion about the presence, or not, of an Autistic Spectrum Condition and in addition to assess for other psychiatric disorders and provide an assessment of the participant's communication ability and occupational functioning.

This requires the participant and parent to attend for a full day of assessments. In addition to the ADOS and ADI-R assessments, the participant is asked to spend an hour in an interview with either a psychologist or psychiatrist, and to complete a communication assessment with a speech and language therapist and to spend an hour with an occupational therapist to assess their occupational ability.

Clinical tools used:

- ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule)
- ADI-R (Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised)
- SCL-90 or similar test to assess for psychiatric disorder
- WASI (Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence) or similar test to assess intellectual ability
- Mont Wilga or similar test to assess communication skills
- MoHO or similar test to assess occupational functioning

A report of the clinical findings will be written and presented to the participant (if they are adult) or the participant's parent in the case of a child, and a second copy of the report will be presented to the referring authority if that is appropriate.

ASSESSMENT C:

Cost: £3100

Diagnostic assessment of ASC and psychiatric disorders, plus assessment of intellectual ability, assessment of communication skills, assessment of sensory differences

Assessment C is to provide a definitive diagnostic opinion about the presence, or not, of an Autistic Spectrum Condition and in addition to assess for co-morbid psychiatric disorders and provide an assessment of communication ability and occupational functioning. In addition this assessment will provide detailed recommendations for interventions aimed at the problem areas identified by the assessment. Assessment C is suitable in situations where previous clinical opinions has been divided, or that there is a great degree of complexity in the number or severity of the presenting problems.

This assessment requires the client to attend for three full days of assessments. The participant will be assessed by a team of 3 or more clinicians. In addition to the ADOS and ADI-R assessments, the participant is asked to spend time in interviews with a psychologist and a psychiatrist, and to complete a communication assessment with a speech and language therapist and to complete assessments with an occupational therapist to assess their occupational ability. A report of the clinical findings will be written and presented to the participant (if they are adult) or the participant's parent in the case of a child, and a second copy of the report will be presented to the referring or commissioning authority as appropriate.

Assessment tools used:

- ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule)
- ADI-R (Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised)
- A range of psychometric measures and clinical interviews to assess for psychiatric disorder
- WAIS-IV (Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale –IV) or WISC (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children) to assess intellectual ability
- Mont Wilga or similar test to assess communication skills
- MoHO or similar test to assess occupational functioning

A report of the clinical findings will be written and presented to the participant (if they are adult) or the participant's parent in the case of a child, and a second copy of the report will be presented to the referring authority if that is appropriate. The report will also contain detailed recommendations for further investigations and of therapeutic interventions and care recommendations aimed at the problem areas identified by this assessment.





Contact us on 01707 646 646 if you would like to request a diagnostic assessment for yourself, family member, or your client. We can accept referrals from all care professionals involved in the individuals care and private referrals from families.

The costs are based on the assessments being conducted at Milton Park Hospital, Bedfordshire; or Kemble House, Barnet. If you would prefer the assessment to be conducted at a location more convenient to the individual please do contact us to discuss possible alternative arrangements.

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