



# FACT SHEET – AUTISM ASSESSMENT

Thank you for contacting Caterpillar Clinic regarding your child undergoing an assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We wish to provide you with the following information regarding the assessment so you know in advance what to expect and any steps you may need to take to be prepared on the day.

The assessment involves three-parts:

**a. Autism Diagnostic Interview (Revised: ADI-R).**

- This is a parent-only session where information on the child's early childhood and current behaviours are obtained. This involves the administration of a standard questionnaire by the clinician assigned. Every response provided is allocated a score, which is then used to determine if criteria is met for autism.
- The assessment can take between 1.5-2 hours.
- Several questions relate to the child's behaviour between the ages of 4 and 5 years old. It can be helpful to 'refresh' yourself on this age group by reviewing any photos, journals, baby diaries,

videos etc that were created at this time. It is also helpful to review early developmental milestones, e.g., when baby walked/talked, stated first words, first phrases etc.

**b. Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (ADOS-2)**

- This is the direct observation component of the assessment. Your child will attend the Clinic where they are engaged in a structured assessment with the clinician that takes approximately one-hour.
  - For children with no/low verbal skills or younger children, the parent can sit in on the assessment. This requires the parent to sit quietly and not initiate contact with their child, but they can respond to the child if the child initiates contact towards them. Only one (1) parent needs to attend this session. For older or more verbal children, only the clinician and the child will be present in the room.
  - Snacks (mini-pretzels and mini chocolate chip cookies) and a drink (apple juice or water) is provided to the child as part of the assessment. Please advise the clinician if your child has special food requirements. If so, we ask that you bring a preferred food for your child that day for the clinician to offer.
  - All assessments are recorded by an iPad and used only for scoring purposes. Once the assessment has been scored, the video is deleted.
- c. Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ABAS-3)**

- This is electronically sent to parent(s) and (if relevant) a teacher who knows the child well. It is a questionnaire that asks about everyday living skills across several different areas (e.g., Communication, Functional Academics, Social Skills, Self-Help skills etc). It provides us with a profile of the child in comparison to other children their age to see whether their everyday living skills are age-appropriate or delayed, and if so, in which areas.

Please feel free to send through any previous reports or assessments that have been completed for your child prior (e.g., speech language, occupational therapy, cognitive etc).

The Medicare rebate for autism assessments is available for individual up to 25 years old with a current (i.e., within 12 months) referral from a paediatrician or child psychiatrist.

The report takes 2-3 weeks to compile. It will then be sent electronically directly to the referring paediatrician and copied to the referring parent. Any other parties to be given copies are to be advised on the initial consent form. The report belongs to the referring parent(s) and can be distributed to whomever they see fit once the report is completed.

We look forward to seeing you at  
the Clinic!



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