

# Autism assessment - a brief overview

## Thank you for your enquiry about our Autism Spectrum Disorder assessment for your child or teenager.

The aim of this guide is to give a summary of the assessment we can offer and hopefully answer any questions you have. Please do not hesitate to contact one of our triage staff on 0203 761 7026 if you have questions or if you would like to book an appointment.

## Is this assessment right for my child?

This assessment package is right for your child if:

- They are aged between 5 and 18 years of age.
- You suspect that they are likely to have a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder
- If your local NHS CAMHS, GP or school have suggested this assessment would be helpful

## What does the autism assessment package involve?

This package has been developed based on evidence based best practice and meets NICE guidelines. It is a very detailed and fully comprehensive Autism assessment involving a total of over 13 hours of time by two different clinicians. This involves psychometric questionnaires, face to face appointments and a comprehensive report.

- Psychometric questionnaires for parents and school to complete (before the assessment)
- An appointment with a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and parents
- An appointment with a Child and Adolescent Psychologist and the child
- Screening for other common mental health conditions, such as ADHD (completion of diagnosis may require further assessments, at a fee)
- A feedback appointment for parents and Psychiatrist (following the assessment day)
- A written report with a diagnosis where one can be made and recommendations

## Important things to note about this assessment

We cannot guarantee that the Psychiatrist will be able to determine a diagnosis for your child and they will advise you if this is the case. There are several possible outcomes following the assessment process:

- a) The consultants can be confident that your child does have a diagnosis of an ASD.
- b) The consultants can be confident that your child does not meet the diagnostic criteria for ASD. (Your child may still have marked ASD-like traits and not meet the diagnostic threshold).
- c) The consultants cannot be absolutely sure if your child does or does not have a diagnosis of ASD. This is relatively rare, but in this case it is possible they may refer you for further specialist investigations, and the cost of these is not included in your initial assessment.
- d) The consultants may think that your child has a different condition, either with or without a diagnosis of autism as well. The fee for your initial assessment involves looking at other co-morbid disorders such as ADHD or anxiety, and diagnosing where possible and clear. Further assessments may be needed to complete these diagnoses which will be chargeable.

## What should I do next?

If you are interested in finding out more about the Autism Assessment or would like to know when the next available appointment is, please call Clinical Partners on 0203 761 7026. The triage team help thousands of people every year access the care they need and will be able to give you expert advice as to whether this is the right package for your child.