

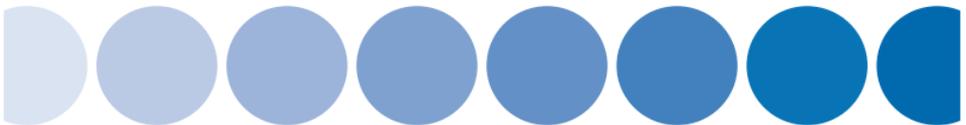


Barnsley Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Community Paediatrics

Barnsley Diagnostic Multi Disciplinary Autism Service

*Understanding the Autism
Assessment Process for
Children (0-18yrs)*



Patient Information Leaflet



Why is my child being assessed?

An assessment is normally undertaken following concerns being raised by either yourself as parents/carers or by a professional currently working with your child.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the name for a range of similar conditions, including Asperger syndrome, that affect a person's social interaction, imagination, interests, communication and behaviour.

Is the assessment compulsory?

No - You have the choice.

If you feel that your child does not need to be assessed or if you believe the outcome will make no difference to your child's development, then you can withdraw from the process at any time.

What is the process?

The assessment process takes place over a period of time and may include:

1. Social Communication Screening Clinic (if required).
2. Request for supporting evidence from other professionals.
3. Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meeting and feedback meeting.
4. Follow-up clinic.

What do these stages involve?

Social Communication Screening Clinic –

This is an opportunity to meet with a Community Paediatrician to share information about your child's strengths and areas of need. This may include how your child communicates and interacts with others and their interests.

During this appointment, the paediatrician may undertake a physical examination of your child however, this will always be with your consent and with you present.

The paediatrician may request blood tests, further investigations or referrals to other services/departments at this point.

Following this appointment, the paediatrician will decide whether there is enough evidence present to consider further assessment for autism.

It is important that the child attends this appointment.

Not suggestive of autism: If autism is not likely, your child will be discharged from the autism assessment process and followed up in a general community clinic if necessary.

Suggestive of autism: If the paediatrician feels there is enough information at this stage, they will then proceed to the next steps.

Request for supporting evidence - It is important that we understand how your child copes in different environments and social situations. Additional information will be requested from their school/nursery or childminder.

We may request an independent professional to observe your child at their school/nursery and/or provide supporting information. This could be a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, an Educational Psychologist or a member of the Specialist Nursing Team.

We may seek information from other services that your child is known to.

MDT Meeting – An MDT meeting will be held where relevant professionals will review all the evidence obtained through this process. Using a nationally recognised criteria, a decision will be made as to whether your child meets the criteria needed for a diagnosis of ASD.

Parents will be invited to attend a feedback session following the MDT to discuss the outcome along with any plan and recommendations.

Where possible, we would request that only adults attend this session.

Follow-up clinic - Following the MDT your child will be seen in a follow-up clinic with a Paediatrician or Specialist Nurse before being discharged from the ASDAT pathway. If there are no ongoing medical needs, your child may be discharged from community clinics.

Additional assessments

Occasionally we may need to explore things further and we do this by undertaking an Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule 2 (ADOS-2) assessment. However, this is not required for every child and the Paediatrician will decide if this is required.

Time scales

Children are assessed by order in which the referral is received. As the process involves various professionals, organisations and assessment, it may take approximately 12 months (or longer) to complete.

Sharing information.

By consenting to the assessment, you are giving permission for the Hospital to share relevant information and reports with external organisations in order to support this process.

Without this information we may not be able to proceed with an assessment. A copy of the assessment will be kept on your child's hospital record.

Additional support?

For details of services available see Barnsley SEND Local Offer: <http://fsd.barnsley.gov.uk>

You can find useful advice and information about Autism by visit www.autism.org.uk

You can also contact the Autism Clinical Co-ordinator on 644883 to discuss any of the above.

If you need this information in an alternative format, please contact the **Patient Advice and Complaints Team** on **01226 432330**.

Если Вы хотели бы эту информацию на другом языке или другом формате, типа большой печати, пожалуйста звоните 01226 432330

Jeśli potrzebujesz te informacje w innym języku czy w innej postaci, na przykład dużym drukiem, proszę dzwonić na numer 01226 432330

如果您想索取這些資料的中文譯本或以其他形式編制的版本（如大字體），請 致電01226 432330

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وهک چاپی گوره، تکایه تله فون بکه بو نه م ژماره یه

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