

# Observational assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Author: Tabitha Filer, Senior Neurodevelopmental Specialist, Community Paediatrics



James Paget  
University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Coming for an assessment

You will be coming to the Newberry Clinic for your appointment with a member of our team. The main thing we want to do is to learn all about you. All you need to do is be yourself, answer some questions and chat to us about what you like and don't like. There will be a few games and puzzles for you take part in but nothing too tricky. Because we want to get to know you as an individual, we may ask your parents to wait out in the waiting room for a bit but don't worry, we can always go and get them if we need to.



This is Newberry Clinic where we will be seeing you.

These are the type of clinic rooms we use when we do the assessment.



Here is someone taking part in an assessment.

## Information for Parents/ Carers

The assessment used is called an ADOS-2 (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule). It is used as part of the assessment process when looking at a possibly underlying Neurodevelopmental Disorder such as Autism Spectrum Disorder. It looks at social interaction, communication and play. There are different modules used generally depending on the child's age or language ability.

The person administering the assessment engages your child in a number of different activities whilst interacting with them and asking questions. Each activity gives the professional an opportunity to observe your child in different situations and to get to know them on a one-to-one basis.

In order for us to truly see how your child responds to these tasks we prefer parents to wait in the waiting room as otherwise we find children can look back to parents for the answers to questions. Some children can also behave quite differently with and without a parent in the room. We always reassure your child that we can easily go and find parents in the waiting room if we need them.

We are unable to give you any feedback on the day of as we have to score the assessment and write our report afterwards. You will receive a copy of the ADOS-2 report following your final feedback appointment with a clinician.

If you have any queries you may call the Newberry Child Development Centre on 01493 442 322.

### Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/ department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

### Trust Values

- Courtesy and respect
- A welcoming and positive attitude
- Polite, friendly and interested in people
- Value and respect people as individuals  
So people feel **welcome**
- Attentively kind and helpful
- Look out for dignity, privacy & humanity
- Attentive, responsive & take time to help
- Visible presence of staff to provide care  
So people feel **cared for**

- Responsive communication
- Listen to people & answer their questions
- Keep people clearly informed
- Involve people  
So people feel **in control**
- Effective and professional
- Safe, knowledgeable and reassuring
- Effective care / services from joined up teams
- Organised and timely, looking to improve  
So people feel **safe**



The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

**For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240**