

Diagnostic Services

ATC's mission is to assist adults and children with autism spectrum disorders as they learn, play, work, and live in the community.

Since our inception in 1978, our only business has been Autism. We take pride in our long history of diagnosing and treating individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorders. As part of our comprehensive services, we offer diagnostic evaluations for those with suspected or known autism spectrum conditions to either rule in or rule out autism, or to update other assessment information. Our assessments are conducted by highly trained, duly credentialed, and experienced multi-disciplinary professionals and are comprehensive in scope. Depending on the anticipated use of evaluation results and recommendations, we are able to format our test reports to conform to educational or clinical requirements. Please feel free to inquire about our fees, or to seek additional information.

FAQ's

Q: "Who conducts the evaluations?"

A: We begin the evaluation with a licensed psychologist with training and experience in Autism. Certain portions of the evaluation, generally that involving detailed background and developmental history, may be conducted by other professionals. If in the opinion of the professionals who conduct the initial evaluation, additional more specialized assessment is indicated (Occupation Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, etc.), we will make such recommendations and appropriate referrals.

Q: "I would like a second opinion regarding diagnosis. Do you offer second opinion services?"

A: Yes, we are happy to consider your case on a second opinion basis and will tailor our assessment to help resolve your concerns and questions.

Q: "How long does an assessment take?"

A: You should plan for a minimum of several hours of face-to-face evaluation and observation. Additionally, there will be requirements for completing detailed historical and developmental questionnaires and forms. This will likely involve several hours of "homework". The actual testing time is often variable, depending on the individual characteristics of the client, and could take more than one appointment.

Q: "What assessments are used?"

A: We will tailor our assessment instruments to each individual case, but we typically administer measures of intellect, academic functioning, and diagnostic instruments that are specific to the issue of Autism. Measures administered are typically formal such as norm-referenced intelligence tests, and informal, such as interview material.

Q: "If following assessment, intervention services are advisable, does your facility offer such services?"

A: In many cases, follow-up intervention can be provided at the Autism Treatment Center. This is an issue which will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on needs identified through the assessment.

Q: "How long does it take to get assessment results?"

A: When all assessment information is summarized and compiled into a written report, a disposition conference will be conducted for purposes of interpretation and follow-up. Narrative reports are usually available within a matter of weeks and we are generally able to schedule disposition conferences in approximately 30 days following receipt of all requested information and completion of testing.

Q: "Who has access to the assessment results?"

A: We release assessment information to parents/guardians/adult clients. Once you have the narrative report, you may share it with others who have a legitimate interest in the case.

Q: "Who should I contact to initiate the assessment process or to make additional inquiries?"

A: You may call Rita Hinojosa, Program Assistant, to get the process started and to add you to the diagnostic interest list. You will then be contacted by a clinician who will begin the intake process after payment has been secured.

CONTACT ATC