

D.3: Developmental Diagnostic and Support Clinic – autism spectrum disorder

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: July 26, 2022
Branch: Social Supports	Last updated: July 26, 2022
Procedure Number: D.3	Review date: July 26, 2024

Purpose

This policy describes the eligibility criteria to access autism spectrum disorder diagnostic assessments through Disability Services' Developmental Diagnostic and Support Clinic's multidisciplinary team.

Policy

1. Developmental Diagnostic and Support Clinic (DDSC) seeks to provide timely multidisciplinary assessments with practical recommendations, while respecting and supporting individual client and family needs.
2. DDSC provides multi-disciplinary assessments that reflect best diagnostic practices for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
3. DDSC provides ASD assessments to school-aged children aged 18 or under.
4. A pediatrician must confirm the need for the applicant's ASD assessment.
5. DDSC uses the Canadian Paediatric Standards including relevant pediatric, psychological and allied health measures in order to diagnose ASD.
6. DDSC files are stored separately from Disability Services (DS) client files and may not be accessed by DS social workers without consent from the child's parents.
7. DDSC refers children younger than school-aged to Child Development Centre for assessment.
8. DDSC will not provide updates regarding a child's assessment status to any referral agent other than the child's parents or legal guardians, without the parent or guardian's consent.

Definitions

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD): A neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by persistent deficits in social communication and interaction, and restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests or activities that are present in early childhood and act together to limit and impair daily functioning. The term "spectrum" refers to the wide range of symptoms and severity.

Canadian Pediatric Standards: A position paper produced in 2019 by the Canadian Paediatric Society that outlines the best practices to use when assessing children for autism spectrum disorder. [Standards of diagnostic assessment for autism spectrum disorder | Canadian Paediatric Society \(cps.ca\)](https://cps.ca/en/resources/standards-of-diagnostic-assessment-for-autism-spectrum-disorder)

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Differential diagnosis: The process of differentiating between two or more conditions that share similar signs or symptoms.

Multidisciplinary team: A team that assesses ASD in children aged 18 or under. The Disability Services multidisciplinary team includes a pediatrician, psychologist, occupational therapist, and speech language pathologist, in addition to the clinic coordinator.

Authorities

- Health Act (Yukon)

APPROVED BY:		Director, Social Supports
DATE:	2022/07/26	