

# Evaluation Services

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

Inova Kellar Center provides multidisciplinary comprehensive evaluations for children and adolescents between the ages of 4 and 18 years who are suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This service is designed to meet the needs of individuals who have not been previously diagnosed with an ASD or those who wish to have a previously diagnosed ASD reevaluated. It is not intended for individuals who have a previously diagnosed ASD accompanied by severe mental retardation and accompanying behavioral difficulties.

## What is ASD?

ASD is a disorder that typically arise in early childhood and is characterized by difficulties with social interaction, communication, and stereotyped or repetitive behaviors. Individuals with an ASD may exhibit some or all of the following behaviors:

- Difficulties with the use of multiple nonverbal behaviors such as eye-to-eye gaze, facial expression, body postures and gestures to regulate social interaction
- Difficulties with developing peer relationships appropriate to the child's developmental level
- A lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment, interests or achievements with other people
- A lack social or emotional reciprocity
- A delay in, or total lack of, the development of spoken language (not accompanied by an attempt to compensate through alternative modes of communication such as gesture or mime)
- A marked impairment in the ability to initiate or sustain a conversation with others
- Stereotyped and repetitive use of language or idiosyncratic language
- A lack of varied, spontaneous make-believe play or social imitative play appropriate to the child's developmental level
- A preoccupation with one or more stereotyped and restricted patterns of interest that is abnormal in either intensity or focus
- An inflexible adherence to specific, nonfunctional routines or rituals
- Stereotyped and repetitive motor mannerisms (e.g., hand or finger flapping or twisting, complex whole-body movements)
- A persistent preoccupation with parts of objects

As a result of these difficulties, individuals with ASD may experience difficulties with making and keeping friends, communicating their needs, developing appropriate self-help skills, regulating emotions, complying with directions, and performing in academic or vocational settings

## How is ASD diagnosed?

At Inova Kellar Center, a multidisciplinary team including licensed clinical psychologists and psychology externs conducts comprehensive evaluations of ASD. Research indicates that evaluations that use information from a variety of sources are the most helpful in accurately diagnosing ASD. This philosophy guides the staff at Inova Kellar Center, and we obtain information from multiple sources including parents or guardians, teachers, and the child.

## What is the evaluation process?

1. Initially, we schedule an appointment with the child/adolescent and the child/adolescent's parents or guardians to:
  - Review concerns
  - Complete an in-depth interview of the child
  - Fill out a short symptom-based checklist, which focuses on social communication and restricted, repetitive behaviors

These procedures are designed to provide more specific information regarding the nature of the child's or adolescent's difficulties.

2. We schedule a second appointment with only the parent(s) to:
  - Review additional information not discussed in the initial meeting
  - Talk through the evaluation plan
  - Discuss costs associated with the evaluation

This session is billed as a "Family Therapy w/o Patient" appointment (CPT code 90846).

3. We conduct a third appointment with only the parent/guardian to collect more detailed information about the child/adolescent's functioning through use of the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R).
4. We then schedule additional appointments to complete the Autism Diagnostic Observation System-2 (ADOS-2) and to complete psychological and educational testing, with each appointment lasting three hours. We schedule these appointments during the morning hours, so as to obtain the "best level of functioning."
5. Extensive behavior rating scales are also distributed for the parent/guardians and teacher(s) to complete, and we ask the parents/guardians to provide copies of school records.
6. A final appointment is a summary conference to review the evaluation results and intervention recommendations. We encourage parents/guardians to share the evaluation report with school officials.

## What evaluation instruments do you use?

We use a variety of diagnostic measures when assessing ASD. The types of evaluation procedures we use depend on the child's age, developmental level and communication skills. Evaluations typically assess intellectual skills, academic skills, speech and language skills, motor coordination skills, and neurocognitive skills. In addition, behavioral and emotional functioning and adaptive behavior is assessed through a variety of rating scales completed by parents/guardians, teachers, and if appropriate, the individual being assessed (if that individual is an adolescent). The following direct measures may be used during the evaluation.

Cognitive/academic achievement measures include:

- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (WISC-V): ages 6 to 16
- Wechsler Adult Intelligence Test, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (WAIS-IV): ages 16 and up

- Differential Abilities Test-2: children younger than 6
- Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency
- NEPSY-II
- Receptive, Expressive and Social Communication Assessment-Elementary (RESCA-E)
- Clinical Assessment of Pragmatics
- Social Language Development Test-Adolescent
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-IV or Woodcock-Johnson-IV-Tests of Achievement

Behavior rating scales and clinical interviews include:

- Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised
- ADOS-2
- Autism Spectrum Rating Scale (ASRS)
- Achenbach Child Behavior Checklist
- Children's Communication Checklist-2
- Conners Comprehensive Behavior Rating Scale
- Repetitive Behavior Scale-Revised
- RESCA-E Social Communication Inventory
- Semi-structured Interview for Children and Adolescents
- Sensory Experiences Questionnaire
- Sensory Profile-2, Child and Adolescent
- Social Responsiveness Scale-2
- Symptom Impact Rating Scale
- Achenbach Teacher Rating Form

## What is the cost of the evaluation?

The evaluation's cost is approximately \$4,4870.

### The cost of the evaluation covers:

- The interviews
- A review of the developmental history and school records
- Administration of the diagnostic measures
- Scoring of the measures
- Interpretation of the test findings
- Report write-up
- A summary conference with the parent(s)

A portion of the diagnostic procedures may be covered by your insurance company. You should determine your specific benefits and coverage prior to the evaluation using the following diagnostic codes where applicable\*:

- **One** initial assessment interview (\$350, CPT code 90791)
- **One** follow-up appointment (\$210, CPT code 90846)
- **One** parent-ADI-R (\$600, CPT codes 96136/37)
- **One** child-ADOS-2 (\$300, CPT codes 96136/37)
- **18.5** hours of psychological testing (\$2,810, CPT codes 96130/31, 316/37)
- **Three** hours of educational testing (**\$600**), which is **not** covered through insurance.

*\*Insurance companies will often not cover all costs associated with the evaluation.*

Patients are required to pay psychological testing hours not approved by their insurance company due to a denial of a preauthorization request, as a result of testing not being a covered benefit or due to annual limitations.

Payment for noninsurance-covered services is expected at the time of each appointment. Should you need to finance the cost of the noninsurance-covered services, payment may be made over a three-month period or longer using Medi-Credit (call 571.423.5802).

If an attention disorders evaluation (AD/HD) is simultaneously required, additional psychological tests and behavior rating scales billed at a rate of \$200 per hour for one to three hours (CPT codes 96130/31/36/37) totaling \$200 to \$600 will be added to the above total. These costs may be insurance reimbursable.

To verify your coverage, check with your insurance company. The Inova Kellar Center's business office staff can also assist you with providing an estimate of the final out-of-pocket expenses associated with the evaluation.

### **How do I schedule an evaluation?**

If you suspect that your child or adolescent may have ASD, have questions about the evaluation process, or would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Inova Kellar Center at 703.218.8500.