

## **Autism Spectrum Disorders Evaluation Services At Inova Kellar Center**

Inova Kellar Center provides multidisciplinary comprehensive evaluations for children and adolescents between the ages of 2½ and 18 years who are suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder. This service is designed to meet the needs of individuals who have not been previously diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or those who wish to have a previously diagnosed ASD re-evaluated. It is not intended for individuals who have a previously diagnosed ASD accompanied by severe mental retardation and accompanying behavioral difficulties.

### *What are Autism Spectrum Disorders?*

Autism Spectrum Disorders are a group of disorders that typically arise in early childhood and are characterized by difficulties with social interaction, communication, and stereotyped or repetitive behaviors. Individuals with autism spectrum disorders 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 of 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 either in 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, or complex whole-body movements.)
- A persistent preoccupation with parts of objects.

As a result of these difficulties, individuals with autism spectrum disorders may experience difficulties with making and keeping friends, communicating their needs, developing appropriate

self-help skills, regulating emotions, complying with directions, and academic/vocational performance.

### *How are autism spectrum disorders diagnosed?*

At Inova Kellar Center, comprehensive evaluations of autism spectrum disorders are conducted by a multidisciplinary team including licensed clinical psychologists and psychology externs. Research indicates that evaluations that use information from a variety of sources are the most helpful in accurately diagnosing autism spectrum disorders. This philosophy guides the staff at Inova Kellar Center and as such, information is obtained from multiple sources including parents, teachers, and the child him/herself.

### *What is the evaluation process?*

1. The first appointment in the evaluation process begins with a brief review of concerns with the parent/guardians and the child/adolescent. During the interview with the child/adolescent, the parent/guardian completes screening checklists.
2. A second appointment is then conducted with the parent/guardian only to collect more detailed information about the child/adolescent's functioning through use of the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R).
3. A third appointment is then conducted to complete the Autism Diagnostic Observation System-2 (ADOS-2). However, this step is omitted if the child is nonverbal or has limited language skills and the ADOS-2 has been administered during the first appointment.
4. If recommended, the fourth and fifth appointments are scheduled to complete psychological and educational testing with each appointment lasting three (3) hours. These appointments are scheduled during the morning hours so as to obtain the "best level of functioning."
5. Extensive behavior rating scales are also distributed and are asked to be completed by the parent/guardians and teacher(s) and the parents/guardians are asked to provide copies of school records.
6. The sixth appointment is a summary conference to review the evaluation results and intervention recommendations. Parents/guardians are encouraged to share the evaluation report with school officials.

### *Evaluation Instruments*

A variety of diagnostic measures are used when assessing autism spectrum disorders and the types of evaluations procedures utilized depend on the age, developmental level, and communication skills of the child. 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, an adolescent. The following measures may be used during the evaluation.

#### *Cognitive/Academic Achievement Measures*

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-5<sup>th</sup> Edition (WISC-V) - ages 6-16.

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Test-4th Edition (WAIS-IV) - ages 16 and up.  
Differential Abilities Test-2 (below age 6)  
Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency  
NEPSY-II  
Clinical Evaluation of Language Functioning-4  
Comprehensive Assessment of Spoken Language  
Young Children's Achievement Test  
Preschool Language Scale-IV  
Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-III or Woodcock-Johnson-IV-Tests of Achievement

*Behavior Rating Scales/Clinical Interviews*

Autism Spectrum Rating Scale (ASRS)  
Childhood Autism Rating Scale-2  
Children's Communication Checklist-2  
Social Responsiveness Scale  
Gilliam Aspergers or Autism Rating Scale  
Sensory Profile- 2 Child and Adolescent  
Krug Aspergers Disorder Index  
Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale  
Behavior Rating of Executive Function  
Autism Diagnostic Observation System  
Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised  
Semi-structured Interview for Children and Adolescents

*Evaluation Cost*

**Approximately \$2650.00**

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, and a summary conference with the parent(s).

A portion of the diagnostic procedures may be covered by your insurance company but specific benefits and coverage should be determined prior to the evaluation using the following diagnostic codes where applicable:

- **1** initial assessment interview (\$250.00, CPT code 90791).
- **1** Autism Diagnostic Interview (parent-ADI-R), (300.00 CPT code 96101).
- **1** Autism Diagnostic Observation (child-ADOS -2), (150.00 CPT code 96101).
- **9** hours of psychological testing (\$1350.00, CPT code 96101). 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.
- **3** hours of educational testing (**\$450.00**), which is **not** covered through insurance.
- **1** review summary (**\$150.00**), which is **not** covered through insurance.

- **Payment for non-insurance covered services is expected at the time of each appointment. Should you need to finance the cost of the non-insurance covered services, payment may be made over a three-month period or longer through the use of Medi-Credit (571-423-5802).**

Figures in **bold** indicate minimum out-of-pocket expenses.

\* If a review of records exceeds one (1) hour, an addition charge will be added at a rate of **\$150.00** per hour in quarter-hour increments, **which is not covered through insurance.**

In order to verify your coverage, check with your insurance company. In addition, the Inova Kellar Center business office staff can also assist you with providing an estimate of the final out-of-pocket expenses associated with the evaluation. **A non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 is required when the testing appointment is scheduled in order to reserve the testing appointment slot. This fee will be applied to the review appointment or forfeited if the testing appointment, for whatever reason, is not completed on the scheduled date.**

### *Scheduling*

If you suspect that your child or adolescent may have an autism spectrum disorder, you have questions about the evaluation process, or you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact the Inova Kellar Center at (703) 218-8500.