

## Freedom of Information Response

Date: 24 January 2017  
Log no: 821

With reference to the Community Paediatrics department at the Ida Darwin Hospital could you please provide me with details of:

1) Your procedures and guidelines for making assessments of autism in children  
The referral pathway is available via our website:

<http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services/community-paediatrics>

School age children are referred once the appropriate interventions and support has been put in place. We require a school report and completion of autism descriptors. The children are then seen for assessment by a multidisciplinary team who assess the child in line with NICE Guidance.

2) The information you have regarding the reliability of the ADOS assessment you use as a diagnostic tool for children

The ADOS forms only part of the assessment. There is variation in accuracy depending on the module undertaken ranging from 80-90%. The ADOS is never taken as a stand alone test and is always in the context of clinical observation and reports from school. We peer review our ADOS assessments to ensure good reliability.

3) Your policy on children of separated parents

Our Trust does not have a policy on children of separated parents. However, we always endeavour to make it an inclusive process and work with parents, family members and school where appropriate. We are currently reviewing our referral document with a view to asking whether the parent accompanying the child has full parental responsibility and are there any other parties that should be included in correspondence.

Could you also please answer the following questions:

4) When making an assessment of a child is it your policy to seek the consent of everyone with parental responsibility?

We do not require both parents' consent for an assessment. (Please also see question 4)

5) When making an assessment of a child is it your policy to invite all those with parental responsibility to attend the assessment or do you exclude some parents with parental responsibility from the requirement for consent?

We do not invite all those with parental responsibility to attend the assessment as parents are not directly involved in the assessment. (Please also see question 4)



6) How many children did you give a diagnosis of autism in the calendar year 2014?

Read code	Diagnoses
(Ub1Tq) Social communication disorder	91
(X00TM) Autistic spectrum disorder	335
(X00TN) Atypical autism	1
(X00TP) Asperger syndrome	37
Grand Total	464

7) How many of those children did you seek consent for the assessment from all adults with parental responsibility?

This information is not recorded by the Trust and we are therefore unable to supply it.