ADOS-2

Post course training information

After completion of the four-day ADOS-2 training delegates will receive a certificate to say that they have attended an official training course. Delegates often ask how soon they can start using the ADOS-2, and how they can become reliable in administration and coding. This depends on the context in which you are working – if you are part of a clinical or research team with experienced ADOS-2 administrators, it is recommended that you shadow colleagues and complete some practice assessments before using the tool in clinical or research work.

After attending training there is no official requirement to obtain further certification to use the ADOS-2. However, administrators are only considered 'reliable' in their coding when they consistently achieve a minimum of 80% agreement with consensus scores. If you are below this level of reliability, it will impact upon the validity of the assessment tool. The time and work involved in becoming reliable varies from one individual to the next and depends on existing experience. The most efficient and effective way to become skilled at the ADOS-2 is to film assessments and watch them back. If this is not possible, a more experienced ADOS administrator can observe can double code some of your assessments.

The ADOS-2 manual recommends that administrators attended reliability meetings on a regular basis to check that they are maintaining reliability and not 'drifting' with coding and/or administration. There is no specific guidance about the frequency with which ADOS-2 administrators should attend reliability meetings- it is the responsibility of the individual / organisation to decide how often this is required. Although it is very helpful to hold reliability meetings within your own team, at least some reliability meetings should involve input from a trainer (as whole teams can 'drift' with their coding).

If you are not working with ADOS trained colleagues, you may need to attend reliability meetings more frequently – you can judge how often you need to attend based on your coding during these meetings.

Some research projects require additional reliability certification - This is a separate process which involves recording and submitting a video of you administering an ADOS, along with your coding. A trainer will then go through this video and provide specific feedback on administration and coding. if you require this, or if you would like more information about online reliability workshops / individual supervision, please email Fansevents@kcl.ac.uk

In clinical work, it is expected that whoever gives the diagnosis of ASD is trained in differential diagnoses (usually psychiatrists, paediatricians and clinical psychologists). However, other professionals are often involved in different aspects of the assessment process (for example, doing the ADOS-2/ADI-R) and this is common practice within the NHS. The National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines provides recommendations for the assessment of ASD in young people and adults- for further information visit www.nice.org.uk.