

Autism Assessment Clinic (AAC) at Western Health:

Western Health operates a multidisciplinary outpatient **Autism Assessment Clinic (AAC)** for children who require assessment to evaluate whether they meet the diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The assessment team consists of a Paediatrician and two of the following disciplines; Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy or Psychology.

Children will be accepted to the AAC if the following criteria are met:

- Referred by and under the ongoing care of a Paediatrician.
- Referral documents signs of ASD and include developmental history.
- Child is aged 2 years 11 months or under at time of referral.
- Child must have a referral to the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI), National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in place.
- Child must have been referred to or had an audiology assessment.
- It is suggested that recommendations for interim management including Speech Pathology (language assessment) and/or Psychology (cognitive assessment) will be made. Please see Health Pathways website for recommended guidelines/actions (<https://melbourne.healthpathways.org.au/index.htm>).

Referrals not seen at Western Health as services not provided:

- Children aged 3 years and over at time of referral
- Children requiring a formal cognitive and/or language assessment
- Children not under the continuing care of a Paediatrician
- Request for a second opinion of existing ASD diagnosis.

Access & Referral Priority Autism Assessment Clinic:

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

| URGENT Appointment timeframe 30 days. | ROUTINE Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need. |
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| n/a | Child demonstrates signs of ASD and meets eligibility criteria |

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to outpatients, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you may be asked to return the referral with the required information.

| Condition: | Key Information Points: | Clinical Investigations |
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| Suspected Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth, social/family & medical history • Full name, DOB, address and Medicare number of child • Caregiver names • Court / custody orders in place • ASD symptoms clearly detailed • Contact details of services and supports referred to / involved with child (e.g.: Early Intervention, NDIS) • Copy of audiology report • Copies of reports and results of any formal assessments (cognitive and/or language) • Medical plan / follow-up • Recommendations made to family for interim assessment and/or intervention. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blood tests as necessary - Genetic studies as necessary |