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Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

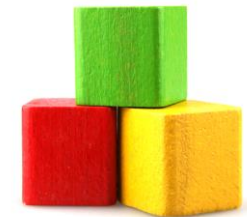
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Social Communication Assessment Clinic

Social Communication and Autism
Diagnostic Service,
Community Paediatric
Medical Service



In this clinic, your child will have a multidisciplinary assessment for autism. At this assessment, your child will be seen by two senior clinicians from the multidisciplinary autism diagnostic team. We also invite the school SENCO or the class teacher from your child's school/nursery, whose input based on their knowledge of your child, is very important. We request up to date information from school / nursery for all the children as part of this assessment.

During the assessment, one clinician will interview parents/ carer (focus will be mainly on social skills and behaviour), while the other clinician will carry out a standardised assessment called the Autism Diagnosis Observation Schedule (ADOS) with your child. At times, we might suggest videoing the assessment, and if so we will discuss this with you beforehand.

At the end of this appointment, the clinicians will jointly review all the information gathered and decide whether your child is on the autistic spectrum or not. Whatever the outcome, we will discuss the implications of any diagnosis made and discuss a plan of action as well as what support is available for you and your child.

Occasionally it may not be possible to come to a firm conclusion at the end of the assessment.

In such cases the usual next step is for us to carrying out an observation of your child in their normal social environment, usually in their school or nursery. When this has been completed, you will be offered another appointment to discuss the results and any possible diagnosis.

Please note that this clinic appointment may last up to three hours due to the complexity of the assessment.

We would like both parents/carers to attend the appointment where possible. If you feel that you would like support from a family member or friend during the appointment, you may bring him / her.

If you require further information about the assessment, please contact our administrator.

We look forward to seeing you.