Information regarding our Autism Diagnostic Testing:

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Autism diagnoses are given by a medical doctor or psychologist. Often these practitioners utilize the knowledge of subject matter experts to help make the determination for proper diagnosing. This is the same as your primary care physician sending you to a cardiologist when there is a suspected heart condition. Our facility has years of additional training and working with individuals diagnosed with autism and other developmental disabilities. Our team has spent the last 13 years dedicated to learning and training in social based therapies and diagnostic testing. We currently have two Speech Pathologists who have gone through extensive training on giving the Autism Diagnostic Test. While our therapists went through training to give this test, trainers noted that our therapists often coded the instrument more accurately than other participants due to their knowledge and background working with autistic individuals. While many practioners are at a level to give this type of testing, it is recommended by the medical community to utilize an individual who has a vast knowledge of the disorder being diagnosed, works with these individuals on a weekly basis, and gives the test weekly. This allows for the testing to be calibrated, meaning a better overall true score. Because of our experience working with autism physicians trust us to administer this assessment which helps our medical community make more accurate diagnosis and provides extensive insight to families beginning their autism journey.

A physician or psychologist will refer you to our office for autism diagnostic testing and treatment. While an insurance may not require a referral, our staff wants to review the history and physician notes to understand the concerns prior to testing. This referral is necessary in order to determine appropriate module of testing to be administered.

Individuals will be scheduled for an initial visit for testing. Our team utilizes the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule as the instrument for assessing autism. This instrument is given in five separate modules based on an individual’s language at the time the test is given. This first visit will take a minimum of one hour. The second session will consist of a comprehensive review of the test results with the caregiver(s). If determined that further information is needed the therapist may recommend the Autism Diagnostic Interview Revised (ADIR). This will be scheduled over the next several sessions due to the in depth nature of the assessment. Once all the testing, scoring, and reporting is complete, the results of the test are given through a step by step overview with the caregiver.

The final report after testing (minimum of two office visits) will be given to the referring physician or psychologist who will then determine whether or not any additional tests are needed in order to place the diagnosis on the individual’s health record.

The test results will show Autism, Spectrum, or Non-Spectrum in all modules except for those younger than 31 months. Testing prior to 31 months will show an at risk level categorized as Mild to Moderate Concern, Moderate to Severe Concern or No Concern for Autism. The testing can then be completed again after 31 months of age if necessary.

The testing may also include additional observation, testing, and interviews as needed to help determine the best possible diagnosis. Because autism is a social disorder it can change as the individual’s social skills develop.

Should you have additional question please contact us.