



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Governor

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Division of Autism Spectrum Services

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Thank you for reviewing the *Connecticut Guidelines for a Clinical Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder*. We trust that you will find this document helpful as you begin or continue your work in diagnosing individuals on the autism spectrum.

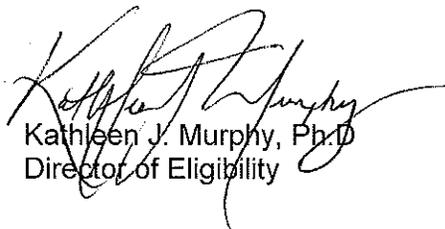
As the Department of Developmental Services and the Division of Autism Spectrum Services, we wanted to provide a supplement to this document that explains a key difference in the diagnostic process between a clinical diagnosis of autism versus a diagnosis of autism in order to pursue eligibility for State of Connecticut services.

This key difference relates to the statement found on Page 20 of these guidelines. More specifically, when conducting an evaluation to reach a clinical diagnosis, it reads: "For the majority of children who are evaluated, it may be unclear from the child and family history, interview with the family, record review, and observational assessment whether a definitive diagnosis of ASD can be made. When a clear clinical picture does not emerge from the evaluation, the diagnostic team or lead diagnostician **should consider conducting** a formal assessment using a standardized diagnostic instrument to assess autism symptoms or should refer the child and family to an appropriately trained and experienced clinician for a diagnostic evaluation."

To clarify, however, in order to be eligible for DDS services an evaluation for an autism spectrum diagnosis **must include** a standardized diagnostic instrument such as the Autism Diagnostic and Observation Schedule (ADOS), Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS), or the Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS). Evaluations that do not include standardized diagnostic instruments will not serve to qualify individuals for DDS services. A main reason for this stipulation is that Federal ASD Waiver requirements necessitate the use of standardized tests, such as the ADOS, to determine eligibility, and as such, the CT Department of Developmental Services has adopted that requirement as part of its eligibility process.

Thank you again for using these guidelines. If you have any questions about the Diagnostic requirements for the DDS Division of Autism Spectrum Services please call 860-418-6078.

  
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