

ADOS 2 & ADI-R training

I am grateful to the FPSA for funding my attendance of the five-day online Hogrefe Combination ADOS 2 & ADI-R training on 14-18th October 2024. The course covered: an introduction to ADOS-2 and ADI-R, coding of all the modules, ASD diagnosis and classification, ADOS-2 algorithms and how to embed using these assessments into clinical practice.

The training was well organised, and materials were delivered to my address in advance so I could reference and use the coding booklets throughout the course.

I am a Clinical Psychologist and work across two services – a core CAMHS service and a National Deaf Specialist CAMHS (NDCAMHS) service. In my role within core CAMHS, young people who may have a query or formal diagnosis of Autism access our service. Being ADOS and ADI trained has developed my confidence with making appropriate referrals to our Autism assessment teams. As part of my role, I also consult with other team members regarding assessment referrals and adapting interventions for Autistic young people.

In my NDCAMHS role, I carry out Autism assessment within a multi-disciplinary team. Autism assessment involves several different components including taking a neurodevelopmental history, structured and unstructured observations with the young person directly. Completing the ADI-R and ADOS training has enabled me to contribute to the complex assessments we complete with our deaf young people. Our client population can experience significant language and communication difficulties and being able to disentangle this from Autism is essential to ensuring assessments are conducted to a high quality and account for the unique communication needs of deaf young people. Using the ADI-R scoring algorithm, we are hoping to have greater clarity with regards to which young people's developmental histories would indicate and meet diagnostic thresholds for Autism.

Whilst I had some familiarity with the ADOS previously, completing the ADOS training has enabled me to develop confidence with coding and scoring. As part of the training, we had opportunities to discuss specific case studies and any discrepancies in coding with colleagues working in similar services. It was especially helpful to have opportunity to access numerous video recordings of completed ADOS assessments with children of different ages, and this helped develop my confidence using the ADOS, particularly with children of younger ages.

I enjoyed the training and thought it was of good quality. The facilitator, Dr Carol Stott, was clearly a very experienced trainer and was able to encourage lots of helpful discussion around using the ADOS and ADI-R in clinical settings. I would recommend this training to other clinicians who would like to be able to complete both ADOS-2 and ADI-R as part of Autism assessment. It is also useful that you can access training materials, including videos of case studies, for six months following completion of the training.