

Testing for Autism Spectrum Disorder Explained

Currently all private insurance companies, and Medicaid, require specific assessments for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and approval of ABA therapy services. This testing varies based on the insurance company and is commonly referred to as a “comprehensive diagnostic evaluation”. **For Medicaid I cannot provide any testing** as it needs to be completed by a Medicaid provider which I am not. However, we can share a list of providers who may be able to help you if requested.

For private insurance testing varies by company. At this time, I cannot provide complete testing for **United Health Care as they require the ADOS test**. I do **NOT** perform the ADOS (autism diagnostic observation schedule). For other private insurances you need to call them and ask specifically the tests they require for the autism assessment. Some examples of tests I can perform include: CARS (childhood autism rating scale) and SRS (social responsiveness scale).

All the information above applies even if you have a prior diagnosis of autism from myself or another provider and your insurance is requiring a new assessment. I am only providing initial diagnoses and treatment planning at this time, not reevaluation. Additionally, the testing I can provide is only for children 6 years old and younger.

There are many providers who can provide comprehensive testing for ASD including: all psychologists who do autism evaluations (PHD), several (but not all) neurologists and child psychiatrists (MDs). If scheduling with another provider, you need to ask them if they can perform the tests your insurance company requires.

Sadly, insurance has made the process of getting your child with autism help and coverage for therapies increasingly difficult. We will do our best to point you in the right direction if we are not able to assist you directly.