

Report on the 5 days Autism Diagnostic & Observation Schedule- 2 (ADOS-2) course attended at from the 5th of June to the 9th of June 2017

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Aim: This course was run for practitioners who worked with children and adolescents with features of Autism and the aim of the course was to impart clinicians with the skills and certification to allow them diagnose children with Autism spectrum disorders and I was fortunate to attend due to a grant from FSP.

Venue: Leolin Price Lecture Theatre Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1EH

What the course involved:

This course was a 5 –day coding course run by Dr Mark Lovell, Consultant child psychiatrist, and Dr Fiona Desira, Clinical psychologist, two individuals with extensive experience in Autism spectrum Disorders research and diagnosis.

The course involved teaching sessions, role plays and daily demonstrations and examinations on how to use the ADOS-2 score.

The arrangement of the course was that each day, a different module was taught with theoretical learning, practice demonstrations of coding and group and single examinations of coding proficiency.

The different modules learnt and dates are as follows;

Day 1/5th June: Introduction & Module 4

Day 2/6th June: Module 3

Day 3/7th June: Module 2

Day 4/8th June: Module 1

Day 5/9th June: Toddler Module

Achieved objectives at the end of the course:

At the end of the course, I acquired the theoretical knowledge, practical skills and expertise for improving the identification, exclusion and diagnoses of Autistic spectrum disorders in toddlers and young persons with Autistic Spectrum disorder features. The certification I achieved follows two stages as explained below.

Stage 1: I acquired a certificate of completion of stage 1 of my training in ADOS-2.

Stage 2: I was also given two USB sticks to copy two practice videos of two assessments and send to the course organisers (I am supposed to do this in the next 6 months) after which the second certificate will be issued and this will allow me carry out ADOS scoring as an approved and competent scorer.

Effects on Practice:

Following attendance of this course, I have liaised with the responsible clinician and we are in the process of setting up our own Autistic diagnostic unit in the hospital and we are deliberating on acquiring the costly ADOS kits which is vital for our work and I have held presentations on Autism for my colleagues about what I have learnt

about Autism and the effect is that most of our staff are now aware of key traits to look out for, so as to identify those that need Autism assessments.

By the time I send in my two videos and get certificate 2, our aim is to help improve awareness of Autism traits within our local hospitals and our local outpatient CAMHS unit.

Proposals for future training emanating from course Attendance:

1. Autism Diagnostic Interview Training
2. Regular updates on new developments in Autism diagnosis & research