

ADOS-2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What is the difference between Introduction to ADOS-2 and ADOS-2 Advanced Training?**

The Introduction to the ADOS-2 workshop for Modules 1-4 takes place over two days and uses a lecture format to introduce people to the basic principles of administering and scoring Modules 1-4 of the ADOS-2. This introductory training is intended for professionals who are interested in an introduction to the ADOS-2, including those who intend to use the ADOS-2 for clinical purposes. It is also a required first step in the process of establishing research reliability.

The Introduction workshop includes a combination of large group lecture, demonstration, and viewing and scoring of the ADOS-2. Individuals planning to use the ADOS-2 in clinical or school settings are strongly encouraged to attend an ADOS-2 Introduction workshop before using the instrument. Note that in all cases, simple attendance at the workshop is not sufficient to ensure competent use of the ADOS-2.

ADOS-2 Advanced training focuses on bringing attendees' administration and scoring skills to a higher level of inter-rater agreement with the scoring practices of skilled examiners. The heightened level of accuracy is needed to ensure that item-level coding is comparable at different workplaces in different parts of the world where research is being conducted. In addition to role play practice in administration, live administration, coding practice and discussion in small groups under the direction of an experienced trainer is a significant component of this workshop.

2. **What are the requirements needed to attend the ADOS-2 Introduction or the ADOS-2 Advanced Training?**

ADOS-2 users should have prior education, training and experience in conducting individually administered test batteries and should have a background and experience in the assessment of ASD. Some examples of clinicians who make use of the ADOS-2 in their daily work are clinical and school psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, and speech pathologists.

Trainees must have completed the ADOS or ADOS-2 Introduction Training in person prior to attending the ADOS-2 Advanced Training.

3. **Do I need to establish research reliability on the ADOS-2?**

If you plan to use the ADOS-2 for research purposes, you will need to establish reliability on the instrument **before you begin collecting data**. Establishing and maintaining reliability is crucial to maintaining consistency and comparability across research studies on ASD.

If you plan to use the ADOS-2 for clinical purposes only, you are welcome, but not required to, establish research reliability on the instrument.

ADOS-2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Continued

4. What is the process for establishing reliability on the ADOS-2?

To obtain reliability on the **ADOS-2**, you must first complete both the Introduction training and the Advanced training. Once you have completed the ADOS-2 Advanced Training, you must establish reliability on the instrument **before you begin any data collection for a research project**.

There are two factors in establishing your reliability: 1) showing that you have learned the standardized administration procedures, and 2) showing that you understand coding rules and have achieved at least 80% agreement on the protocol and the algorithm with an independent trainer. This is accomplished through the following:

1) Demonstrate standardized administration procedures

You must demonstrate your understanding of standardized administration procedures on 3 separate administrations each for Modules 1/2 and Modules 3/4. Demonstrations of administration procedures can include:

- Two video recordings of yourself administering two different ADOS-2 modules that you bring to the training workshop for review and feedback
- Administrations of the ADOS-2 you do during the Advanced/Research Training workshop
- Your post-course taped ADOS-2 administrations submitted to us for reliability scoring

2) Establish reliability in coding the ADOS-2

You must reach 80% agreement with CADB or an independent trainer on 3 administrations of the ADOS-2 Modules 1/2 and 3 administrations of ADOS-2 Modules 3/4. Agreement is calculated separately for the diagnostic algorithm and for the protocol in total, and you must achieve 80% agreement on both. If you are working with CADB or an independent trainer to establish reliability, administrations can include:

- Administrations of the ADOS-2 during the Advanced/Research Training
- Your scoring of the administrations on the post-course tape we send home with you after the Advanced/Research Training
- Your post-course taped ADOS-2 administrations submitted to us for reliability scoring

You also may establish reliability with another reliable coder who works with you at your work site, provided you see them on a daily basis. See below for details.

5. Can I establish reliability on the ADOS-2 with someone in my department / clinic?

If you work with someone who has previously established reliability on the ADOS-2 with an independent trainer, you can complete the steps of establishing reliability with that person, as long as you are working at the same physical site and have frequent (i.e., daily) contact to talk about coding and administration issues. To establish reliability with someone at your site, you must achieve 80% agreement in coding with the ADOS-2 reliable examiner on both the protocol and the algorithm across 3 consecutive administrations of Modules 1 / 2 and 3 consecutive administrations of Modules 3 / 4.

Within these 6 administrations, all 4 modules must be represented. Your ADOS-2 reliable examiner also must see you administer all 4 modules at some point during the reliability process. You and the reliable examiner must double-score administrations (that is, code an administration independently, then check your reliability with one another) until you have established 80% agreement among yourselves on 3 independently scored administrations of the ADOS.

ADOS-2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Continued

6. I am already research reliable on Modules 1 – 4 of the ADOS. Do I have to re-establish research reliability on Modules 1- 4 of the ADOS-2?

Individuals who previously established research reliability on Modules 1-4 of the ADOS are considered to be research reliable on Modules 1-4 of the ADOS-2. However, these individuals are responsible for updating their training on the ADOS-2 through careful review of the new manual and protocols, consensus scoring with other ADOS-2 research reliable examiners, and/or attendance at ADOS-2 trainings and/or booster trainings.

7. I have completed the ADOS-2 Introduction Training. Can I train someone else?

No. The Introduction training is designed to provide training to individual users only.

8. I have established research reliability on the ADOS-2. Can I train other people at my site?

After you are reliable with us, you can then train other research group members to reliability who are in the same physical location as you are. Collaborators must be physically at the same site. Thus, if National University Singapore and the Institute of Mental Health are collaborating, we are not in the same location. Even though the University of Melbourne and Monash University are in the same city, they are not the same site. We recommend that, with colleagues at your site, you double-score administrations (that is, code an administration independently, then check your reliability with one another) until you have established 80% agreement amongst yourselves on three independently scored administrations of the ADOS-2. This can include the DVDs we have given you. We request that you only train people who are in your immediate research group (who are at the same site as you are and whom you see on a daily basis).

If you choose to establish reliability with someone in your department / clinic / service as opposed to establishing reliability with us, you are not permitted to then train other people in your department / clinic / service.

Thus, if you need to be able to train other people in your department / clinic / service, you must complete the research reliability process with us or an independent trainer.

9. Upon completion, will participants be given any certification as proof of completion?

- Upon completion of the ADOS-2 Introduction Training, participants will receive a **Certificate of Attendance** for attending the training.
- Upon completion of the ADOS-2 Advanced Training, participants will also receive a **Certificate of Attendance** for attending the training. Once participant achieved research reliability, they will be awarded with a **Certificate of Achievement** for achieving research reliability standard in the administration and coding of the ADOS-2.