

Autism in adults

Introduction

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition which may include¹:

- impairments of social interaction and communication
- stereotyped, repetitive or limited behavioural repertoire
- sensory differences.

ASD presentation and the capabilities of those affected varies widely. There may be particular differences between the classical history and that of women with ASD or higher functioning ASD individuals. Although ASD will be the term used for those newly-diagnosed, previous terminology included pathological demand avoidance, high functioning autism, Asperger's syndrome, pervasive developmental disorder and autistic spectrum condition².

This module will look at ASD in adults. The topics were chosen by an inter-professional focus group of practising clinicians.

This module will include:

- presentation and assessment in primary care
- autism in women
- how to make primary care autism friendly
- high functioning ASD.

There are many links throughout the module to useful resources for patients and clinicians. Whilst listed as hyperlinks in the text, these are grouped for ease of future reference with their website addresses in Appendix 1 'ASD patient resources' and Appendix 2 'ASD primary care resources'. Appendices can be shared without breaching PBSGL copyright.

Expert Reviewer: [people with ASD do not have a positive experience attending any clinical setting and therefore their help needs are often unmet, I hope this module addresses this by making clinicians more aware of the symptoms and impact of having ASD].

More information on topics touched on in the module can be found in the following PBSGL modules: Anxiety Disorder in Adults; Care of people who are transgender or who have gender dysphoria; Depression; Eating disorders; Psychiatry short cases and Hormone Replacement Therapy.