NewYork-Presbyterian
Center for Autism and
the Developing Brain

Instructions for Establishing Reliability on the ADOS-2

Now that you have finished the ADOS-2 Advanced/Research workshop, you may want to establish your reliability for research or clinical purposes. Establishing reliability is something that will be especially important for researchers. 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 with our lab. In order to achieve reliability, we must evaluate your administration and coding on three different administrations of the Modules 1 / 2 and on three different administrations of Modules 3 / 4.

<u>Establishing Standardized *Administration* Procedures:</u>

Regarding administration, our goal is to see you administer parts of the ADOS-2 to 3 different individuals for Modules 1 / 2 and 3 different individuals for Modules 3 / 4. If you brought a DVD of yourself completing Modules 1 / 2 and Modules 3 / 4 to the workshop, those DVDs count as your first administration. When you administered part of the ADOS-2 during the workshop, this counted as the second administration. The third administration we will observe is the DVD that you send us after the workshop. This DVD will also be used to check your coding reliability, discussed below. If you did not bring a DVD to the workshop, please send us an additional DVD along with your third administration DVD. We will score one in detail (<u>tell us which</u>) and just briefly watch the other one to assess administration skills.

Please be sure that we are able to see you administer parts of each of the 4 ADOS-2 Modules. That is, if your administration review DVD is a Module 1, and you give part of a Module 1 during the workshop, then your third administration DVD should be of a Module 2. If you give a Module 1 on your administration DVD and part of a Module 2 during the workshop, then you can choose either module for your third administration.

<u>Establishing Inter-rater Reliability in *Coding* the ADOS-2:</u>

Reliability will also be assessed on 3 separate administrations for each set of modules. First, reliability was assessed at the workshop in your small groups. Second, we have provided you with a DVD. On your own, score the DVD and check your scores against our scores.

Finally, you will send us a third DVD of one of your administrations (discussed above) of Module 1 /2 and Module 3 /4. Someone in our lab will score the DVD and check your scores to assess reliability. With this third administration DVD, you must include a copy of your protocol and algorithm form (please be sure your notes are legible). Please also provide us with the participant's chronological age, and if possible, verbal and nonverbal mental age-equivalents.

If you work with someone who has established research reliability with us on the ADOS-2, 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 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 should 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-2.

Training Others At *Your* Site

After you are reliable with us, you can then teach research group members who are in the same physical location as you are. Collaborators must be physically at the same site. Thus, though the CADB and UC Davis are collaborating, we are not in the same location. Even though the University of Chicago and Northwestern 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 among yourselves on three independently scored administrations of the ADOS-2. 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).

Training People At *Other* Sites

If you need to be able to train others outside your immediate group, you must first establish reliability as described above, and apply to our Trainer in Training program. If accepted, you'll then come to another training session and act as a group leader. This procedure is relevant both for researchers and for clinicians

who would like to lead clinical and research training workshops. Once you have completed this process, we will provide you, at cost, with training materials to train others.

<u>ADOS-2 Reliability</u>
Other Language Options

Fluent in English with access to English speaking volunteers
If you are sufficiently fluent in English to administer the ADOS-2 with English speaking participants and have access to English speaking participants to work toward reliability, you may move forward using the reliability instructions on page 1.

Fluent in English but do not have access to enough English speaking volunteers
You must follow all the instructions on page 1, and below are options for your post-course reliability requirements:
1. You may administer your two, post-course DVD taped administrations for reliability in another language that you are fluent (Spanish, Korean, German, Scandinavian, see WPS for a list of translated versions available).
2. You must find someone who is ADOS-2 reliable, fluent in the selected language, received training via UMACC/CADB or an Independent Trainer and agrees to code your reliability tapes.
3. Please contact CADB or your Independent Trainer with this person's name so that your post-course reliability scoring information can be recorded.

If you are not fluent in English
You must find an Independent Trainer who can work with you for both Clinical and Research Training. See Independent Trainer list and contact Chris Gruber at Western Psychological Services (WPS) for information regarding translation usage. (rights@wpspublish.com, (800) 648-8857).

<u>Maintaining Reliability Over Time</u>
It is also important to establish procedures for maintenance of reliability. We recommend that you double-score and reassess reliability for approximately 1 of every 5 to 10 administrations of the ADOS-2, depending on how frequently you give it. The point of the ADOS-2 training is to have well-documented reliability across sites, so this is very important. It is easy for even very skilled clinicians to "drift" in scoring if there is not frequent discussion and a chance to compare independently made scores. Please visit our website at

http://www.cornellpsychiatry.org/education/autism.html or the WPS website
(www.wpspublish.com) for information about follow-up trainings.

If you have any questions or comments, please write or call us. Good Luck! For
questions about the workshop, administration and scoring of the ADOS-2, or the
reliability process, contact CADB Training Staff at autismtraining@nyp.org