



دائرة الصحة
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Autism Spectrum Disorder Service Jawda Guidance

Version 1

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Executive Summary

The Department of Health–Abu Dhabi (DOH) is the regulatory body of the healthcare sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and ensures excellence in healthcare for the community by monitoring the health status of its population.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is experiencing a substantial growth in the number of hospitals, centers and clinics. This ranges from school clinics and mobile units to internationally renowned specialist and tertiary academic centers. Access to and quality of care have improved significantly over the past two decades, reflecting the economic growth and population expansion of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi; however, challenges remain in achieving further improvements.

The rising number of children with autism features and developmental delays, coupled with the absence of a standardized diagnostic pathway, alongside growing expectations for treatment, rapid uptake of technology, and a more diverse workforce, is increasing the complexity of healthcare delivery in Abu Dhabi. Collectively, these factors elevate the inherent risks to care quality and patient safety.

DOH has developed dynamic and comprehensive quality framework to bring about improvements across the health sector. This guidance pertains to the quality indicators that the Department of Health (DOH) is requiring for quarterly reporting by healthcare facilities operating **autism hubs** in Abu Dhabi.

The guidance sets out the full definition and method of calculation for patient safety and clinical effectiveness indicators. For enquiries about this guidance, please contact jawda@doh.gov.ae

This document is subject to review and therefore it is advisable to always utilize online versions available on the DOH website.

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About this Guidance

The guidance sets out the definitions and reporting frequency of JAWDA Autism spectrum disorder performance indicators. The Department of Health (DoH), in consultation with local and international experts in ASD diagnosis and treatment, developed ASD performance indicators that are aimed at assessing the degree to which a provider competently and safely delivers the appropriate diagnostic and clinical services to the patient within the optimal time.

The Jawda KPIs for ASD in this guide include measures to monitor such as how well autism hub service providers care for their patients, how often they follow best practices and how effective they are at accurately diagnosing and treating their patients. Healthcare providers are the most qualified professionals to develop and evaluate quality of care for patients; therefore, it is crucial that clinicians retain a leadership position in defining performance among Autism Hub service providers.

Who is this guidance for?

All designated facilities for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnostic Hubs in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

How do I follow this guidance?

Each provider will nominate one member of staff to coordinate, collect, monitor and report ASD quality performance indicators data as per communicated dates. The nominated healthcare facility lead must in the first instance e-mail their contact details (if different from previous submission) to jawda@doh.gov.ae and submit the required quarterly quality performance indicators through Jawda online portal.

What are the regulations related to this guidance?

- Legislation establishing the Health Sector
- DoH standard for autism spectrum disorder care management.
- As per DoH Policy for Quality and Patient Safety issued January 15th 2017, this guidance applies to DoH standards for autism spectrum disorder care management in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in accordance with the requirements set out in this Standard.

ASD Service JAWDA Performance Indicators

Type: ASD Service

Number: ASD001

KPI Description (title):	Timely Access to Initial ASD Assessment
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition	The proportion of referred patients with suspected autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who attend their initial assessment within 14 calendar days of referral received.
Calculation	<p><i>Numerator:</i> The total number of patients with an accepted referral for suspected autism spectrum disorder who attended their initial assessment within 14 calendar days of the referral received.</p> <p><i>Denominator:</i> The total number of patients with referrals for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) received during the reporting period.</p> <p><i>Exclusions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parents or guardians of a child request to postpone the start of assessment, diagnostic, therapy or any related assessment. 2. Patients whose insurance does not cover the cost of assessment.
Reporting Frequency	Quarterly
Unit Measure	Percentage (%)
International comparison if available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard for Autism Spectrum Disorder Care Management • NICE Autism Quality Standard QS51 • Standards Department of Health Abu Dhabi-Well-Child Visits
Target	≥ 90%
Data Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Medical Record

ASD Service JAWDA Performance Indicators

Type: ASD Service

Number: ASD002

KPI Description (title):	Percentage of Patients with completed diagnostic assessments within 42 calendar days of initial ASD assessment
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition	The proportion of patients who received a completed diagnostic assessment within 42 calendar days from their initial ASD assessment
Calculation	<p><i>Numerator:</i> Total number of patients who received a completed diagnostic assessment within 42 calendar days of the initial ASD assessment and have a clearly documented report both in the medical record and provided to parents.</p> <p><i>Denominator:</i> Total number of patients who completed the initial ASD assessment during the reporting period.</p> <p><i>Exclusions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parents or guardians of a child request to postpone the start of assessment, diagnostic, therapy or any related assessments.
Reporting Frequency	Quarterly
Unit Measure	Percentage (%)
International comparison if available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard for Autism Spectrum Disorder Care Management • International consensus on standard outcome measures for neurodevelopmental disorders: A consensus statement.
Target	≥ 85%
Data Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Medical Record

ASD Service JAWDA Performance Indicators

Type: ASD Service

Number: ASD003

KPI Description (title):	Comorbidity Assessment Following Positive Screening Outcomes
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition	Percentage of patients completing neurodevelopmental assessment and assessment for common coexisting conditions within 6 months of referral for diagnostic assessment
Calculation	<p><u>Numerator:</u> Number of patients who completed neurodevelopmental assessment and assessment for common coexisting conditions (e.g. ADHD, anxiety, intellectual disability) with or without use of standardized screening tools within 6 months of referral for diagnostic assessment.</p> <p><u>Denominator:</u> Total number of patients who were referred for diagnostic assessment during the reporting period.</p> <p><u>Exclusions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients have already been diagnosed with a condition (e.g., ASD) and are being referred to the service solely to confirm that diagnosis (rather than for comprehensive assessment or new intervention) 2. No show despite 3 contact/scheduling attempts. patients who have missed their scheduled appointments for assessments or therapy sessions after multiple attempts to engage them. If a patient does not attend appointments despite three reminders. 3. Parental refusal of evaluation, transfer of care or relocation outside the UAE and cases clinical deferral due to acute illness 4. The patient under 5 years
Reporting Frequency	Quarterly
Unit Measure	Percentage (%)
International Comparison if available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard for Autism Spectrum Disorder Care Management • Improving Efficiency and Quality of the Children’s ASD Diagnostic Pathway: Lessons Learned from Practice • National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Autism spectrum disorder in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis (Clinical guideline CG128). London: NICE
Target	<p>(a) ≥ 80% neurodevelopmental assessment</p> <p>(b) ≥ 90% common co-occurring condition</p>
Data Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Medical Record