

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What services does the ASD Center provide?

A. The ASD Center provides in-depth developmental screening & assessment, treatment plans, clinical consultation, and care management services for referred ASD children by a multidisciplinary team representing the following disciplines child & adolescent psychiatry, clinical psychology, pediatrics, behavioral and developmental pediatrics, pediatric neurology, genetics and other subspecialists. Local child and adolescent psychiatry departments offer several classes for parents of children with an ASD diagnosis. For information about these classes, call your local child and adolescent psychiatry department or the ASD Centers.

Q. How do I refer patients to the ASD Center?

A. Any Kaiser provider in the Northern California Region may refer a child to the ASD centers. The ASD centers accept referrals via *eConsult* after the child has been screened using the M-CHAT or other best practices developmental tool and is determined to meet ASD risk referral criteria. The ASD centers will also accept referrals when there is parent or a Kaiser provider's concern about the child's developmental progress. Training on the use of the screening tools and the referral process has been presented to all provider's group in the Northern California Region. Additional information and training is available by contacting the ASD Regional Director Pilar Bernal, MD directly.

Q. How will clinicians in the region care for the ASD patient population that cannot travel to one of the two ASD Centers?

A. Kaiser Permanente Northern California ASD program has developed best practice guidelines for the management of the ASD population. The Regional ASD program staff is committed to monitoring and disseminating these guidelines to all Kaiser Permanente providers. The ASD Regional Program includes a continuum of care with ASD champions and clinicians in all behavioral health programs.

Q. Where can I learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorders?

A. The ASD Centers website has been build to provide you with up to date evidence base information. We are reviewing regularly other websites and publications to assist you in your search and development of understanding in ASD.

- www.autism-society.org *Autism Society of America*
- www.autismspeaks.org *Autism Speaks /CAN website*
- www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/ *CDC website*
- www.brightfutures.org *Endorsed by The American Academy of Pediatrics.*
- www.ninds.nih.gov/health_and_medical/disorders/autismshortdoc.htm *Great overview fact sheet on Autism.*
- www.ddhealthinfo.org/pdf/ASD_Best_Practice.pdf or www.ddhealthinfo.org or www.dds.ca.gov/autism *CA Dept. of Developmental Services, Best Practice Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis & Assessment.*
- www.aacap.org *The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*
- www.php.com *(PHP) Parents Helping Parents*
- www.nimh.nih.gov *National Institute of Health*
- www.umacc.rackham.umich.edu *University of Michigan at Ann Arbor Autism & Communication Disorder Center*
- www.teacch.com *Treatment & Education of Autistic & Related Communication Handicapped Children University N Carolina*
- www.mindinstitute.org *The M.I.N.D. Institute at the University of California at Davis*

Q. What other ASD activities is Kaiser Permanente participating in?

A. The KP San Jose ASD Center is collaborating on federally funded research projects with Principal Investigator Lisa A. Croen, PhD from the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research (DOR). In addition, the KP San Jose ASD Center is participating in on-going community consultation, collaboration, and training. For a more current list of ASD research projects, contact ASD Regional Director – Pilar Bernal, MD directly.

- www.dor.kaiser.org *DOR website.*