

# FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER CLINIC PROCESS

## Referral/Intake



- Verify referral criterion (age, check for previous assessments and dx);
- Intake criterion varies (i.e., cognitive, other pre testing required, referral source, PAE confirmed or suspected.)\*

\*Referral and intake process can vary, depending on individual clinic practice and policies. (e.g. triage, waitlists)

## Acceptance of referral



- Client/guardians informed of referral status;
- Intake forms, correct consents received;
- Initiate collection of necessary comprehensive information.\*

\*The dx process includes: reviewing social, medical, birth, PAE, developmental, family & education history.

## Scheduling assessments & Dx clinic



- Schedule neurobehavioral, SLP, OT and other assessments;\*
- Obtain previous assessments, and share with appropriate team clinicians.

\*Recommend adult clients have advocate to assist throughout the assessment/dx clinic process.

## Multidisciplinary Dx Clinic



- Diagnostic Formulation and Case Conference:
- Team meets, reviews file, history and other information;\*
- Formulate FASD dx, interventions and recommendations;
- Communicate dx, recommendations with family/client.

\*Review of caregiver & other interviews & background information; assessment results.

## Reports, Recommendations



- Medical summary report completed in timely manner;\*
- Report shared with organizations, individuals listed on consent for disclosure;
- Clients/caregivers connected to post clinic support;
- Files stored according to FOIP, clinic policy.

\*Report format varies; Physician signs off final report.

### CLINIC COORDINATOR

- Key to ensuring smooth referral, intake and clinic process
- Organizes all aspects of: case management, scheduling, clinic day, reports, team recruitment, training
- Social Work, Nurse, Mental Health, Addiction or other Human Services background

### PHYSICIAN

- Conduct caregiver/client interviews; pertinent physical/neurological exam; identify other disorders
- Assess degree/presence of SFF; review developmental and other history; Training specific to FASD dx
- Disclose dx findings to client/caregivers; responsible for signing final medical reports

### REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST

- Education, expertise, background and scope of practice relevant to clinical assessment & interpretation
- Provide comprehensive assessment of brain domains, as per dx guideline; interpret results to team
- Masters or Ph.D. level recommended; Provisional Psychologist is not recommended

### SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST; OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

- Education, skill set to complete SLP and OT assessments, according to dx guideline recommendations
- Language, executive function, motor, adaptive and social language are common for SLP/OT testing
- SLP and OT assessments assist in guiding appropriate post dx interventions and strategies for supports

### ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

- Contribute to relevant information, recommendations and supports
- Can include stakeholders from: Mental Health, Justice, Education, Cultural Knowledge Representation, Employment, Addiction- Counselling, Post Clinic Support, Children and Family Services.\*

\*Sectors represented may differ between Pediatric and Adult clinic teams.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** FASD: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder;  
Dx: Diagnosis; SFF: Sentinel Facial Features; FOIP: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; OT: Occupational therapist; PAE: Prenatal Alcohol Exposure; SLP: Speech-language pathologist



## Useful Links and Resources

<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/suppl/2015/12/14/cmaj.141593.DC1> Cook, JL, Green CR, Lilley CM, et al.; Canada Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Network. *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD); a guideline for diagnosis across the lifespan*. CMAJ 2015. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.141593.

The most recent Canadian FASD guideline was published as a supplement to the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) in 2015. This revision to previous Canadian guidelines for FASD diagnosis was due to new evidence and recommendations.

<https://lcfasd.com/training-services/> Since 2002, Lakeland Centre for FASD (LCFASD) has trained and supported FASD diagnostic and assessment teams across Canada by providing comprehensive FASD training services. The Rajani Clinic Training Service provides FASD Assessment and Diagnostic training on the revised Canadian FASD Diagnostic guideline and support teams through a mentorship model to increase the confidence level of teams.

<https://estore.canfasd.ca/multidisciplinary-team-training-for-diagnosis-of-fasd> This online FASD curriculum is developed to assist professionals in learning the processes, procedures, and in developing the skillset needed to be effective members of a multidisciplinary diagnostic team. The curriculum is designed for clinical and allied health professionals who are either currently working in FASD clinics or for those who will soon become members of multidisciplinary diagnostic clinic in Canada.

See <https://canfasd.ca/online-learners/> for additional online curriculums with the Canada FASD Research Network.

<https://canfasd.ca/topics/diagnosis/fasd-faq-cards/> These cards provide answers to frequently asked questions about FASD diagnosis and FASD clinic contact information for each province and territory which provides FASD assessment and diagnostic services.

