

THE STREAMLINED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: A STRATEGY FOR EARLIER DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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01. INTRODUCTION

Early access to Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD] interventions leads to better health outcomes for children diagnosed with ASD with the recommendation that, if possible, diagnosis is made during the preschool years.

Currently, the average age of diagnosis for a child referred to BC Autism Assessment Network [BCAAN] is relatively late at 8 years old due to:

- broad range of accepted referrals for ASD assessment
- increasing rate of referrals
- finite number of funded assessments

02. OBJECTIVE

BCAAN to initiate a Streamlined Assessment Program [SAP] pilot to focus ASD assessments on:

- minimally verbal children <43 months
- children who display clear & concerning symptoms for ASD

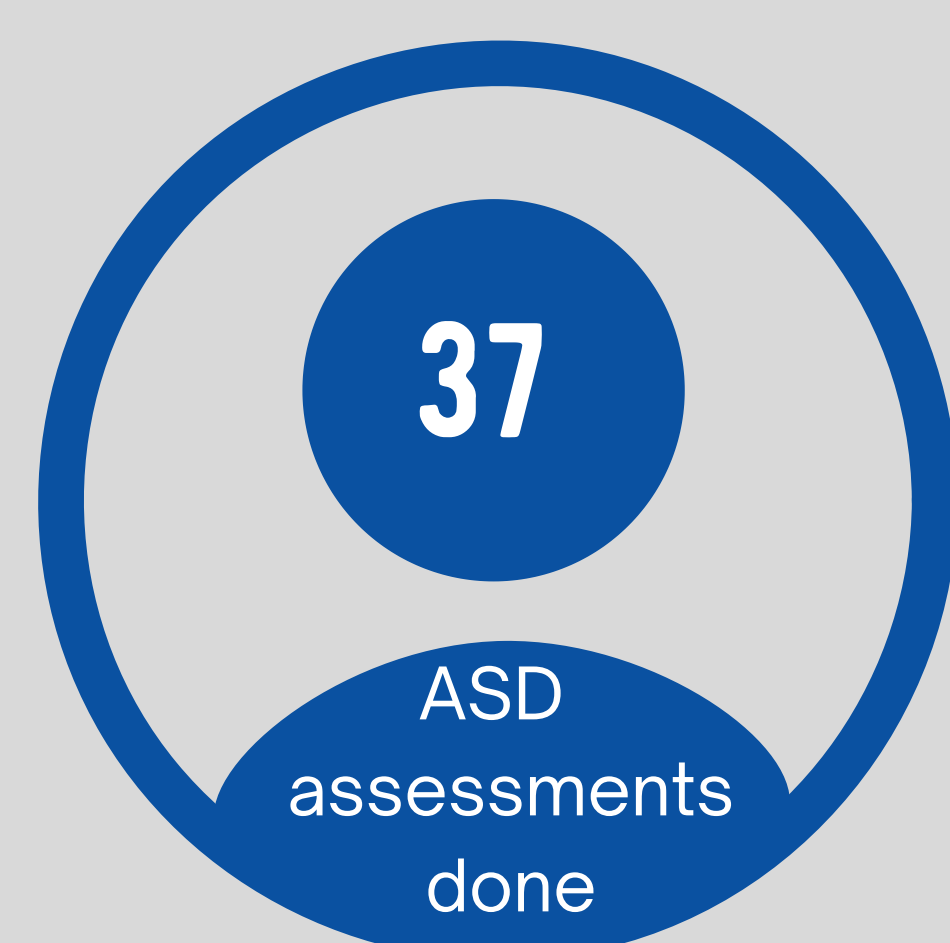
1. Shorter clinical appointments to better meet the needs of this population
2. Increase number of ASD assessments for children at a younger age

03. METHODOLOGY

- The Logic Model guided the SAP pilot design
- Pre & Post telephone satisfaction interviews with families
- Pre & Post electronic satisfaction surveys with clinicians
- Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles to determine process flows



04. SAP PILOT FINDINGS



97% of children seen were diagnosed with ASD



97% family satisfaction with diagnostic process



97% of children seen did not require additional assessments/appointments

Efficiency of assessments decreased wait time

Pre - SAP
69.4 weeks



Post - SAP
49.7 weeks

05. NEXT STEPS



- BCAAN to continue use of the SAP to improve provision of ASD assessments for children <43 months
- BCAAN to consider expansion of SAP model for children >43 months

