

Frequently Asked Questions

ADULT ADHD & AUTISM ASSESSMENT · THE CHERRY AADI

House of Shalom Therapeutic Services | Toledo, Ohio

PART 1 · FOR PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS

What does the assessment actually involve?

The Cherry AADI is a combined evaluation for adult ADHD, Autism, and AuDHD (the two occurring together) — it's one process, one price, and can't be split into separate assessments. It includes a minimum of 180 minutes (3 hours) of in-depth clinical interview, time afterward for clinical decision-making and report writing, and a 30-minute follow-up session where we go over your results together. The interview looks at core ADHD and Autism traits, "advanced" pieces like masking and demand avoidance, late-identification factors, your strengths, and it also screens for things that can look similar — anxiety, depression, OCD, and bipolar disorder — so nothing gets missed or mislabeled.

Source: Therapist Learning Center, "ADHD and Autism Assessment for Adults" course FAQ; Cherry AADI Clinical Manual, Ch. 1 (Assessment Overview).

Is this a "test," and does it matter that it isn't scored like one?

No — the Cherry AADI is a semi-structured clinical interview, not a psychometric test with fixed items and a numeric score (like the ADOS-2). Semi-structured interviews are a recognized, gold-standard method for diagnosis in mental health practice. Not being a scored instrument doesn't make a diagnosis less legitimate; it means the diagnosis is built through a systematic, criteria-based conversation and clinical judgment rather than a test score.

Source: Therapist Learning Center course FAQ, "difference between clinical assessment methods"; Cherry AADI Clinical Manual, Ch. 3.

Who is qualified to diagnose me, and is it legitimate under Ohio law?

Your assessment is provided by Levarine Graham, MSW, LISW — a Licensed Independent Social Worker in Ohio. Under Ohio Revised Code §4757.01, the legal definition of the "practice of social work" performed by clinical social workers explicitly includes "the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders." Ohio further distinguishes an LSW, whose clinical and psychotherapy work must be supervised, from an LISW, who is authorized to provide that same diagnostic and treatment work independently, without supervision. That means an Ohio LISW has full legal authority to diagnose adult ADHD and Autism as part of independent practice, the same way LPCCs, LMFTs, psychologists, and psychiatrists are authorized within their own scopes.

Source: Ohio Revised Code §4757.01 (codes.ohio.gov, verified directly); "Ohio Social Work License Requirements: LSW, LISW & LISW-S," humanservices.ohio.gov; Cherry AADI Clinical Manual, Ch. 3.

I've heard only a psychologist or neuropsychologist can diagnose ADHD or Autism in adults — is that true?

That's a common misconception. Evidence-based diagnostic practice includes using established diagnostic criteria (ICD-11 and DSM-5-TR), systematic clinical interview methods, clinical expertise, and cultural context — not only scored psychological testing. Licensed mental health clinicians, including LISWs, LPCCs, LPCs, LMFTs, psychologists, and psychiatrists, are all fully qualified to diagnose ADHD and Autism in adults within their scope of practice. A months-long wait for a neuropsychological referral is not required to get an accurate diagnosis.

Source: Therapist Learning Center course FAQ, "common misconceptions" and "professional standing"; Cherry AADI Clinical Manual, Ch. 3.

Can I use insurance for this assessment?

HOS currently operates as a private-pay practice while insurance credentialing is underway. Payment options include private pay, FSA/HAS, and payment plans.

Source: House of Shalom Investment Proposal; HOS "Billing and Assessment Adaptation Questions" notes.

Is telehealth available, or do I need to come to the office?

Both options are available. The Cherry AADI is equally valid whether it's completed in person at the Toledo office or virtually (Ohio only) over a secure video platform. If you complete it via telehealth, you'll just need a private, quiet space for the interview, and technical difficulties may require rescheduling.

Source: HOS Informed Consent document, "Telehealth Considerations."

How do I get my results, and what if I can't make the follow-up session?

Results are reviewed together in a 30-minute follow-up session, and you'll also receive a comprehensive written report with diagnostic conclusions and recommendations. If you're unable to attend the follow-up session, you can still receive your results — by secure email, a phone consultation, or a written report only, whichever you prefer.

Source: HOS Informed Consent document.

PART 2 · FOR REFERRAL SOURCES & OTHER PROFESSIONALS

What is the research base behind the Cherry AADI?

The assessment is grounded in ICD-11 and DSM-5-TR diagnostic criteria and draws on a broad research base covering adult ADHD and Autism presentations, masking and camouflaging, AuDHD co-occurrence, pathological demand avoidance, semi-structured clinical interview methodology, differential diagnosis, cultural competency, gender differences, neurodiversity-affirming practice, trauma-informed assessment (including validated telehealth administration), and professional ethics.

Source: Therapist Learning Center course FAQ, "research base"; Cherry AADI Clinical Manual, reference list.

How does this differ from a full neuropsychological battery?

Psychometric instruments (such as the ADOS-2) are standardized tools with fixed items and norm-referenced scores. The Cherry AADI is a semi-structured clinical interview — in the same family as tools like the SCID — that systematically explores diagnostic criteria with clinical flexibility rather than a fixed scoring key. Both are valid, evidence-based paths to a diagnosis; a semi-structured interview isn't a lesser substitute for testing, it's a different, well-supported method suited to adults whose presentations often don't fit standardized child-normed instruments.

Source: Therapist Learning Center course FAQ, "difference between clinical assessment methods."

Is Levarine Graham specifically trained and credentialed to administer this assessment?

Yes. Administration of the Cherry AADI requires completing "Learning the Cherry AADI: ADHD & Autism Assessment for Adults," an 8-hour continuing education program through Therapist Learning Center, LLC (NBCC ACEP No. 7422), covering diagnostic frameworks, clinical methodology, assessment components, documentation standards, and ethical considerations, plus a 30-minute post-training consultation before independent use.

Source: Cherry AADI Clinical Manual, Ch. 3 ("Training Requirement"); Therapist Learning Center course page.

Does an Ohio LISW's scope of practice cover diagnosing both ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder in one evaluation?

Yes. Ohio Revised Code §4757.01 defines the "practice of social work" to include the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders broadly, without carving out ADHD or Autism Spectrum Disorder specifically, and grants that authority to independent practice for LISWs. That places both diagnoses within scope for an Ohio LISW, on the same footing as LPCCs, LMFTs, psychologists, and psychiatrists under their respective Ohio practice definitions. Scope of practice is defined at the state level and can change, so HOS reviews Ohio's current standards on this at least annually.

Source: Ohio Revised Code §4757.01 (codes.ohio.gov, verified directly); Cherry AADI Clinical Manual, Ch. 3.

This FAQ is a general information resource and does not replace the informed consent process completed before an assessment, nor legal advice about scope of practice. Ohio licensing rules and administrative code can be updated by the state; HOS reviews the current Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code annually, or sooner if notified of a change by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.