



## What is FASD?

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure. It is a lifelong disability that affects a person's brain and body. Often, behavioural changes are the most notable symptoms and many individuals show no physical features of the disability. FASD Diagnosis involves obtaining a complete history, a physical examination to look for characteristic physical features, and a neurodevelopmental assessment of the following 10 domains:

- Academic Achievement
- Attention
- Cognition
- Language
- Memory
- Brain Structure & Function
- Executive Function
- Adaptive Behaviour & Social Skills
- Motor Skills
- Affect Regulation



## Why is an FASD Assessment Important?

Individuals with FASD can experience complex behavioural and intellectual challenges that persist throughout the lifespan. If this disability is left unsupported, challenges become increasingly complicated. The need for early and accurate diagnosis is critical for improving outcomes and quality of life.

## Who is Appropriate for Assessment?

- Children, youth and adults
- Prenatal exposure to alcohol highly suspected or confirmed
- Query of FASD and/or complex profile typically including chronic challenges



# OUR DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS

### 1 Referral, Intake and Screening

A Parent/caregiver/team member completes a 'Request for Diagnostic Service' for an individual suspected of having FASD and returns to Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences. Then a member from the diagnostic team calls to complete Intake Interview.



### 2 Medical Assessment

A medical professional will complete a developmental history, assesses Sentinel Facial Features and conducts physical and neurological examination.



### 3 Neurodevelopmental Assessment

Health professionals will complete comprehensive assessments of the ten neurodevelopmental domains as per Canadian diagnostic guidelines. This determines if there is a need for further psychological evaluation.



A Psychologist assists to confirm the ten domains required for diagnosis (If required).

### 4 Clinical Integration

A Behaviour Consultant assists the individual's team in integration with the diagnostic recommendations and provides education and training to all relevant parties.



## How to Refer:

If you are interested in referring yourself or someone else to the FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Collaborative, please complete the one-page 'Request for Diagnostic Service' document (with consent if submitting on behalf of someone else) and return to the Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences. A member from the diagnostic team will reach out to schedule an Intake Interview. If you have any questions, please contact Clinic Coordinator Sally Seabrook.



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Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences

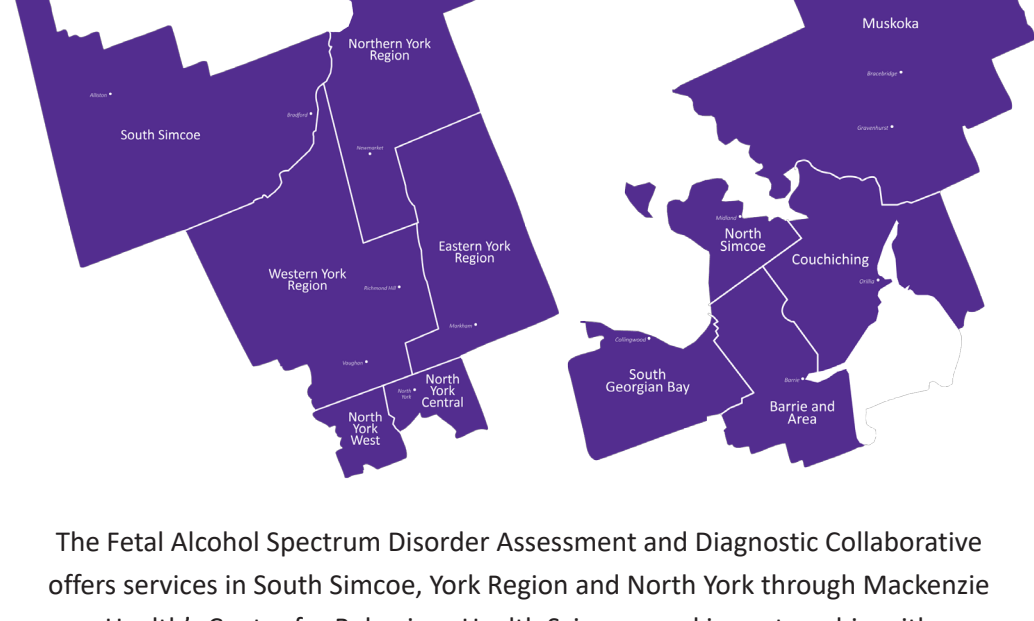
570 Bryne Drive, Unit H

Barrie, Ontario

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[Click here to get started with the Referral Form](#)

## Service Areas



The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Assessment and Diagnostic Collaborative offers services in South Simcoe, York Region and North York through Mackenzie Health's Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences and in partnership with Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care in North Simcoe and Muskoka areas.

