



Professor Melissa Gladstone
Department of Women and Children's Health
Institute of Translational Medicine
University of Liverpool
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Eaton Road
Liverpool
L12 2AP
00 44 151 252 5250
<http://www.liv.ac.uk/translational-medicine/>
Email: melglad@liverpool.ac.uk

Please find below information and guidelines concerning the MDAT tool. We would appreciate it if you would consider this information carefully when using the MDAT tool.

The MDAT (Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool)

MDAT is a robustly validated and culturally appropriate tool to assess early child development (ECD) globally. The MDAT has been validated using a menu of complementary techniques including; face and content validity (whether items make sense to local people and professionals), between-observer and within-observer reliability and construct validity (evaluating how well it worked in identifying children with known developmental delay vs normal children). Population based age-bands for developmental milestones have been created for 1446 children from 0-6 years with the research for this having been published in a high-impact open-access journal in 2010 [3]. The MDAT has since proved to be predictive of later school achievement, sensitive to differences between children with different medical conditions [3],[4] and now has simple scoring [5]. The MDAT has now been used by researchers (>170 citations) in over 70 studies assessing children affected by prematurity, difficult births, cerebral malaria, encephalitis, HIV, malnutrition, poor sanitation, refugee situations and specific neurodevelopmental disorders in Africa, South East Asia, the Middle

East and South America. Uptake of the MDAT in a wide range of research studies and validity in over 20 countries in LMIC settings.

It should be clear that:

- MDAT is a developmental assessment tool with a version for child monitoring (MDAT-SF).
- MDAT is not a diagnostic tool on its own and must be used in conjunction with a full assessment of the child and family.
- The MDAT tool is designed for use to assess children aged 0-6y
- The tool must always be used together with the materials specified and recommended for use by the MDAT team and not adapted without prior knowledge of the MDAT team.
- The MDAT provides manuals and guidance documents to support implementation of the MDAT. These should always be used in accordance with its intended use (including adapting MDAT as needed, with the MDAT team's prior consent, to ensure that it is locally and culturally appropriate).
- The MDAT tool must always be translated and back translated prior to use and these back translations should be shared with the MDAT team prior to use.
- Materials are provided by third parties and the University provides no warranties or liabilities regarding their use
- The MDAT team can support assessors and teams with the provision of manuals for the use of the MDAT. This includes associated manuals, materials, documentation as well as appropriate orientation to the MDAT toolkit.
- At request of assessors and teams, the MDAT team can also provide Technical Assistance (TA) to support MDAT training, in country adaptation, implementation, data collection and support with analysis. In the event that the MDAT team provides such TA, the groups will create an agreement for the cost of MDAT staff time and costs, including travel, pursuant to a separate written agreement.

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By signing this memorandum of understanding, you agree with the terms and conditions for using the MDAT tool. You will include the copyright notice when applying the tool for programming and research purposes.

Signature _____

Name:

Title:

Organisation:

Date: