

## **Autism: Early Identification in Primary Care**

Early identification is really important – early intervention with appropriate treatment makes a difference – take advantage of the developing brain.

1. Primary care providers should monitor for developmental disabilities and autism at every preventive care visit AND screen for developmental delays at 9, 18 and 30 months (24 months if a 30 month visit is not planned) AND screen for autism spectrum disorder at 18 and 24 months with a validated screening instrument.
2. Current recommendations include use of the ASQ 3 or PEDS for developmental screening and M CHAT R for ASD screening.

### **If a child fails the MCHAT-R or you have concerns about autism:**

1. Arrange audiologic evaluation
2. Refer to Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education
  - a. Early On if under 3
  - b. Intermediate School District for 3 and above
3. Refer for comprehensive ASD evaluation
  - a. Community Mental Health if Medicaid or MiChild
    - i. ASD evaluation and ABA if under 6
    - ii. Behavioral health services if 6 or over
  - b. Family to call insurance company if commercial insurance
    - i. See guide for families when they call

### **Autism Resources**

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/states/comm\\_report\\_autism\\_2014.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/states/comm_report_autism_2014.pdf)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

<http://www.aap.org/autism>

To go directly to the video by Rebecca Landay of Kennedy Krieger:

<http://www.kennedykrieger.org/patient-care/patient-care-centers/center-autism-and-related-disorders/outreach-training/early-signs-of-autism-video-tutorial>

To go directly to the Autism Case Studies: Free Online CME:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/autism/index.html>

For CDC recommendations about Autism including the A.L.A.R.M. guidelines:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/hcp-recommendations.html>

Or go directly to A.L.A.R.M. <http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/downloads/pdfs/AutismAlarm.pdf>

To download the M-CHAT-R: [http://www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/M-CHAT/Official\\_M-CHAT\\_Website.html](http://www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/M-CHAT/Official_M-CHAT_Website.html)

To learn about the MCHAT -R with follow up interview: Robins DL, Casagrande K, Barton M, Chen CA, Dumont-Mathiew T, Fein D. Validation of the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers Revised with Followup (M-CHAT R/F). *Pediatrics* 2014; 137; 37:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/133/1/37.full.html>

For an excellent up to date review of Autism for the primary care pediatrician, see: Harrington JW, Allen K. The Clinician's Guide to Autism. *Pediatrics in Review* Vol 35(2) February 2014.

#### **MICHIGAN SPECIFIC INFORMATION:**

The Family Center provides support and guidance to families of children and youth with special health care needs including autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

Email to [cshcsfc@michigan.gov](mailto:cshcsfc@michigan.gov) or call the Family Phone Line (800) 359-3722.

The Autism Alliance of Michigan is a great source of information about autism and services in Michigan:

<http://autismallianceofmichigan.org/>

To find the Community Mental Health contact information in your county:

<http://www.michigan.gov/autism>

<http://www.michigan.gov/autism/0,4848,7-294-63682---,00.html> scroll down and click on the See Map to find the autism coordinator in your county.

For more information, please contact us directly:

Jane Turner, MD. [Jane.Turner@chm.msu.edu](mailto:Jane.Turner@chm.msu.edu)

Bambi VanWoert [VanwoertB@michigan.gov](mailto:VanwoertB@michigan.gov)

November 2015