

Outreach of the Month:



ACCEPT ♥ UNDERSTAND ♥ LOVE

Information for Your Patients

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In This Issue

Gaps in care Outreach topic:

Autism Awareness

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One of the most important things you can do as a parent or caregiver is to learn the early signs of autism and become familiar with the typical developmental milestones that your child should be reaching.

Not all children with autism show all the signs. Many children who *don't* have autism show a few. **That's why professional evaluation is crucial.**

Talk with your healthcare provider. Screening doesn't diagnose autism. It flags behaviors often associated with the condition. After screening, your doctor can refer you to a specialist for a diagnostic evaluation.

Importantly, you *don't need to wait* for a diagnosis for your child to receive services. Federal law requires states to provide therapy whenever screening identifies developmental delays or learning challenges.

Every child or adult with autism has unique strengths and challenges, so there is no one size fits all approach to autism treatment and intervention.

Many people with autism have additional medical conditions such as sleep disturbance, seizures and gastrointestinal (GI) distress. Addressing these conditions can improve attention, learning and related behaviors. Many people also benefit from therapies for communication, social skills, or motor challenges, or to learn other skills like feeding or self-care.

Each autism intervention or treatment plan should be tailored to address the person's specific needs. A person's treatment plan can include behavioral interventions, other therapies, medicines or a combination of these.

****Reach out to your PCP today. Support and resources are available****

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