ASD Pre-Diagnosis Resource Phrase

***Use smart phrase .8resASDprediagnosis to embed in AVS at visit where referral for ASD eval is discussed/completed***

**I discussed concerns for autism with my primary care provider. What happens now?**

You recently talked about your child’s development with your provider. You may have talked about concerns or “red flags” for autism, or “autism spectrum disorder” (ASD). Your child also may have “screened positive” or “failed screening.” This handout will give you more information about next steps if you or your provider are concerned about autism.

**What does “screening positive” for autism mean?**

“Screening” means using a brief/simple checklist (which could include a questionnaire or observation) to learn more about your child’s development and abilities and to look for signs of autism. It can help us notice and address concerns early, before they become bigger issues. We complete screening for autism during your child’s 18-month and 24-month well-child visits and at other visits if autism is a concern. It is important to know that many children who screen positive will not go on to be diagnosed with autism. However, any child who screens positive may be at risk for autism or other developmental delays. Therefore, all children who screen positive should have a follow-up discussion with their provider and may need other assessments by their provider and/or developmental specialists.

**What happens next?**

**Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS)** - Early intervention is available in every state and territory of the United States. In Tennessee, TEIS offers help and therapies at no cost to families. Children can enroll up to age 3 and, if eligible, can continue services until the start of the school year after their 5th birthday. If your child is under 3, we will reach out to TEIS, but you can also refer your own child to TEIS by calling (800) 852-7157. TEIS will schedule an evaluation to assess your child’s speech and language skills, motor skills, learning skills, daily livingskills, and social skills. This evaluation often happens in your home, where your child is most comfortable. The evaluation will show which therapies your child may need. Not every child will qualify for TEIS services. If your child is close to or over the age of three, please work with your provider to get evaluated for school services through your local school district. For both TEIS and school services, you DO NOT need to wait for an autism assessment. Please enroll in these services as soon as you can.  If a speech delay is present and hearing loss has not been ruled out, your child will also be referred for a hearing evaluation.

**Autism Evaluation** - Your provider may recommend an evaluation for autism. Your provider may perform the assessment or recommend an appointment with a developmental specialist. During this appointment, the provider will ask questions about your child’s development and your concerns. They will also observe your child play and interact with you. They will help decide if your child has autism or other developmental delays. These appointments can occur in person or through telemedicine. For telemedicine, these visits can occur at your provider’s clinic or can be completed at home. If you are seen through telemedicine, the specialist will let you know if further in-person testing is needed.

**Family Navigation** - There are often wait times for evaluation services. You may be ready to gather information and start other services for your child while you are waiting. If you need help, please contact the Tennessee Disability Pathfinder. A family navigator can help connect you to services and resources related to child development and autism. These may include helpful information, family trainings, therapy services, and any further assessment that might be needed. You can contact our Pathfinder at 1-800-640-4636 or [https://www.tnpathfinder.org/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tnpathfinder.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cholly.miller%40vumc.org%7Ca88213a3c83e46a3321e08dd8d0afd1a%7Cef57503014244ed8b83c12c533d879ab%7C0%7C0%7C638821800791829707%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Nl1qcWJLjod%2B8Nzxc5XWq2XDLa%2B0yhFkOvjASkVojl4%3D&reserved=0).

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information about next steps and resources, please visit our website: [https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/tncares-eng/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvkc.vumc.org%2Fvkc%2Ftriad%2Ftncares-eng%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cholly.miller%40vumc.org%7Ca88213a3c83e46a3321e08dd8d0afd1a%7Cef57503014244ed8b83c12c533d879ab%7C0%7C0%7C638821800791846925%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2Bl4ALmB6jNaamYv%2FDlIqic%2Ft3%2B6fsOff1UtfZP1K8H0%3D&reserved=0) or scan the QR code below with your phone.

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