



## Autism Spectrum Disorders

It is estimated that 1 out of every 150 children have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and that there are 280 new cases each year in Connecticut.

Pediatric health care professionals can identify children at risk for an ASD early, thereby maximizing the potential of intervention services. They can also address parents' concerns about development and possible autism. Once concerns are identified, pediatric providers should connect children to evaluation and intervention services, and provide ongoing health services to children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has published guidelines for screening all young children for ASDs. Services in Connecticut, through the Birth to Three system and private specialists, are available to provide further evaluation and intervention for children identified in primary care settings.

The purpose of this module is to help the practices implement an autism screening tool and to offer resources for families whose children are identified. The ASD module is provided through the Educating Practices in Communities (EPIC) program. A professional trainer will visit your practice at a convenient time and provide a brief presentation to you and your entire staff on early detection of ASDs and referral of children for further evaluation and intervention.

### Presentation Objectives

- Learn about red flags for autism spectrum disorders
- Learn about the M-CHAT to screen for autism at 18 and 24 month visits
- Learn how to talk with parents about ASD concerns
- Learn how to connect children for whom there are concerns to diagnostic and intervention services
- Learn how to bill for screening and follow-up visits

### EPIC provides:

- > Screening and parent education materials
- > Provider resource materials
- > Lunch or snack

