

Synthesizing Best-Practice Recommendations for Ongoing Integrated Autism Care in Project ECHO AuDIO

Zeng, K.^{1,2}, Eldon, S.¹, Ferguson, G.¹, Kanigsberg, L.¹, Penner, M.^{1,3}

¹Bloorview Research Institute, ²Queen's University, Faculty of Health Sciences, ³Department of Paediatrics

Background



Autistic children/youth require **ongoing integrated care** after diagnosis.¹ However, families often report feeling **unsupported** after diagnosis.^{2,3}



Community healthcare providers (HCPs) can help coordinate care, yet best-practice recommendations are **spread across various sources**.^{2,3}

Objective

Synthesize autism care guideline recommendations to inform a Delphi survey for ECHO AuDIO integrated care toolkits for community HCPs.

Methods



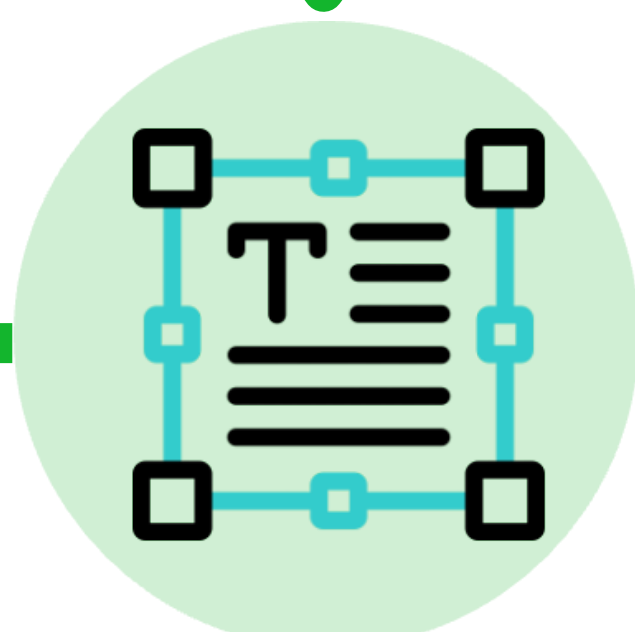
Screen Documents & Websites
(n = 36)



Included Documents & Websites
(n = 5)



Extract Recommendations
(n = 219)



Group Coding
(n = 218)



Categorize Items
(n = 29)



Draft Delphi Survey Items
(n = 59)

Ongoing, integrated autism care includes many aspects, such as **individualizing care, managing medications, and managing interfering behaviours**



ECHO AUDIO

Thank you to the Ward Family for funding the summer student program and Pamela Ye for her support throughout this project.

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Bloorview
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Results

29

Categories Identified

Individualized Care

“Care and intervention planning for autistic children/youth should be person- and family-centred, reflecting the child’s strengths, needs, preferences, developmental level, cultural context, and family priorities.”

Medication Management

“Medication (e.g., stimulants, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, antipsychotics) should only be considered for specific co-occurring behavioural, attention-related, or mental health concerns in autistic children and youth, not for the core features of autism.”

Management of Interfering Behaviours

“Community HCPs should assess for physical, mental health, behavioural, and environmental factors that may contribute to interfering behaviours.”

Relevance to Holland Bloorview

Supports the development of practical resources that help community HCPs provide more integrated, family-centred ongoing care for autistic children/youth and families.

Conclusion

29 categories of integrated ongoing autism care were identified, **59 draft Delphi survey items** were created.

Next Steps

Draft survey items will inform the next modified Delphi stage, where experts will rate item importance. Consensus items will guide Project ECHO AuDIO toolkit development for HCPs.

1. Ip A, Zwaigenbaum L, Brian JA. Post-diagnostic management and follow-up care for autism spectrum disorder. *Paediatrics & Child Health*. 2019;24(7):461-468. doi:https://doi.org/10.1093/pch/pxz121
2. Legg H, Tickle A. UK parents’ experiences of their child receiving a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review of the qualitative evidence. *Autism*. 2019;23(8):1362361319841488. doi:https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361319841488
3. Rabba AS, Dissanayake C, Barbaro J. Parents’ experiences of an early autism diagnosis: Insights into their needs. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*. 2019;66(1):101415. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2019.101415