

POPULATION

Parents and guardians who had accessed or are attempting to access ASD diagnostic services for their children

PHENOMENA OF INTEREST

Experiences of parents and guardians accessing ASD diagnostic services for their children

CONTEXT

Inpatient, outpatient and primary care settings

SYNTHESIZED FINDINGS

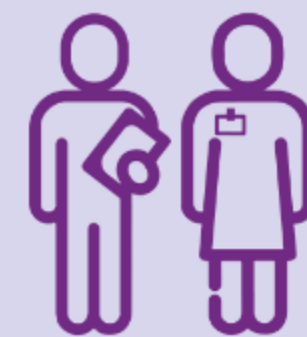
Parents' and guardians' ability to access ASD diagnostic services for their children is affected by...



- 1 Encountering HCPs who actively listened to and addressed parents' and guardians' concerns, instead of dismissing them, providing a sense of support and validation.
- 2 Facing extended waiting times and associated financial burdens resulting in frustration and associated financial impact when delays occurred.
- 3 HCPs lacking specialized knowledge about ASD contributing to parents' and guardians' confusion surrounding inaccurate or conflicting diagnoses related to ASD co-morbidities.



Health care providers (HCPs)



Learning, upskilling

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE

Provide support and guidance to parents and guardians of children with ASD during assessment and diagnosis.

A It is recommended that HCPs should support and provide guidance for parents and guardians during the ASD assessment and diagnosis.

Develop and employ strategies to reduce wait times in accessing ASD assessment and diagnostic services.

B It is recommended that health care system administrators review their processes and implement strategies to reduce the wait times for children and adolescents to be assessed for ASD.

Provide ASD-specific education to health care professionals.

C It is recommended that specific education and training on ASD should be provided to HCPs including but not limited to primary care physicians and pediatricians.