

Autism Shared Decision-Making Tool Checklist

Shared decision making has been shown to improve patients' knowledge about treatment options, provide them with clarity about their health-related values, increase treatment adherence, and ultimately improve health outcomes.¹ Despite its benefits, shared decision-making is under-utilized by medical professionals, particularly for BIPOC patients.² Specific tools have been found to be helpful in promoting shared decision-making conversations with patients by offering a process and structure.

This shared decision-making tool was created to support primary care providers with navigating conversations with caregivers of young children who are suspected of having autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This tool is intended to be used as a guide for explaining the autism screening results and navigating the followup appointment. The checklist below can help by walking users through the shared decision-making process.

End of Initial Visit

- Share and explain the autism screening results.
- Allow space for the caregiver to share their reaction and acknowledge their feelings.
- Answer initial questions but don't overwhelm the caregiver with information. You can use the visual on Page 2 to briefly explain autism.
- Print out and give the Take-Home Booklet to the caregiver. Explain that this tool has more information about autism and possible next steps.
- Encourage the caregivers to fill out the reflection section at the end of the booklet.
- Schedule the followup appointment for the earliest date possible.

Followup Appointment

- Set an agenda for the appointment and ask the caregiver if they have anything they want to add to the agenda.
- Ask if the caregiver has read through the Take-Home Booklet and/or completed the reflection section.
 - If yes**, look through their responses, verbalizing them with the caregiver. Ask if they have any questions or thoughts after reading the booklet.
 - If no**, walk the caregiver through the options in the booklet while they follow along. Pause for questions on each page.
- Use the reflection section as a discussion guide with the caregiver.
- Ask if they have any thoughts on what they would like to pursue next.
- If not, offer some suggestions based on their reflection answers.
- Make the relevant referrals/followup appointments.

Brasted and Immel, 2022

1. France Legare, *Interventions for increasing the use of shared decision making by healthcare professionals* (Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2018)

2. Dayna Bowen Matthew, *Just Medicine: a cure for racial inequality in American health care* (New York: New York University Press, 2015)

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

