Research to Help Underserved Populations

Innovative Adaptation and Dissemination of AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Research Products

Innovative Adaptation and Dissemination of CER

Purpose/Description

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) affect approximately one in every 110 children in the United States, and the adult population having a diagnosis of autism has also grown in recent years. A wealth of information about ASD has appeared on the internet; however, a tremendous amount of misinformation has also appeared. Websites devoted to ASD represent many different points of view. The information they offer can be fragmented and contradictory and is often presented in medical terms difficult for the layperson to understand. This project created a website to help consumers understand ASD and available therapies drawing on and supplementing AHRQ systematic reviews.

Project Aims

1) Develop a website for families that presents information on autism treatment effectiveness along with a range of information on understanding, living with, and treating autism. The website incorporates video "stories" to illustrate these components.
2) Adapt the content of two CER products: "Efficacy and Comparative Effectiveness of Off-Label Use of Atypical Antipsychotics" and "Comparative Effectiveness of Therapies for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" for presentation on this website.
3) Disseminate the website to families.
4) Conduct a qualitative evaluation of the website to assess its impact.

Findings

The project launched the website in September 2013, and has since received over 138,000 page views. The evaluation of the impact is ongoing.

Study Population
Parents of Children with ASD

Health Condition Addressed
Autism

Dissemination Tool and/or Method
Website www.interactingwithautism.com

Principal Investigator:
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