



## **Improving Monitoring and Screening:**

### *Case Study 4*

Many states have made great strides at educating and supporting pediatricians to implement universal screening for autism and other developmental disorders. However, there are still children being cared for by family practice or general practice doctors, and it has been much more difficult to capture the attention of general physicians. Doctors are regularly asked to change their practice and screen for another medical condition and children are often not the majority of their practice. How can we educate and support family practitioners to also begin screening? While there is a family practice organization, it is not nearly as tight a group as the American Academy of Pediatrics chapter. Have you had any success in encouraging general practitioners to implement universal screenings? What partnerships or additional strategies might we try?

1. Read the case study. Outline and determine the problem that is presented.
  - Need more communication with general practitioners – trouble getting message out
  - Partnerships with family practice doctors less common
  - All kids need the same care (no matter what the setting)
  - Lack of confidence in skills with working with kids with ASD/screening
  - Need to identify what groups are actually providing primary care for children in various locations around the state
  - There's a need to engage family providers in training; there's a lack of knowledge concerning the use of evidence-based screening tools, recommended screening schedule
  
2. Brainstorm new or existing approaches that could be used to help address this problem. What avenues has your state or program pursued in similar situations? Is there something your state or program has wanted to implement, but hasn't yet due to lack of funding/resources? Are there innovative approaches that could be used?
  - Telehealth is a good option
  - Need more support, training, structure for general physicians
  - Use "Learn the Signs. Act Early." materials for education
  - Educate and empower families
  - Outreach to daycare centers; help families obtain more data from daycare
  - Utilize speech-language evaluations
  - Education for nurse practitioners

- Utilize the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine as resource
3. Engage in dialogue and discussion to explore and clarify the problem and talk about which approaches may be the most feasible and effective for addressing this problem.
- Education, training is needed
  - Focus on educating and empowering families as well