

# Your next patient has Autism . . . Are you prepared? Training Description for Hospitals and Healthcare Staff



*This training provides healthcare staff with scenario-based instruction and practical application for serving individuals with Autism in hospitals, emergency rooms, or doctor's offices. Pathfinders for Autism provides a balance of factual information and practical tips and strategies, along with personal stories that both entertain and provoke thoughtful consideration. Participants leave the session with a comprehensive understanding as to why this Autism training is important and how it will play into their daily work experience.*

## Purpose of Training

Pathfinders for Autism seeks to train hospital and other healthcare staff in ways to interact more effectively with individuals, children, and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

## Benefits of Pathfinders for Autism's Training

Education is a powerful tool, and in emergency situations or planned hospital or other healthcare visits, proper training and education can promote positive interactions and outcomes for all. If we can assist medical professionals in the difficult job they do every day – assessing, treating and healing our loved ones – by helping them to understand how best to interact with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, then we all benefit from that understanding.

## Our Curriculum

Our curriculum does not address medical protocol. Rather, we focus on the prima-

ry areas of impact, including **communication and language processing, sensory processing disorder, and challenges with social interaction and behaviors.** In addition, we offer personal experiences and experiential exercises that reinforce the information being presented. Strategies and tools are offered that may improve the interaction with a child or adult on the Autism Spectrum.



## Our Team

Our curriculum development team consist of Pathfinders for Autism staff, a hospital ER doctor, a hospital nurse, child life specialists, and a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Our curriculum includes a video produced and shared through Megg A., parent of a son with Autism.

## Our Training Team includes:

**Trish Kane**, Director of Programs for Pathfinders for Autism and parent of a son with Autism, trainer since 2011

**Neal Lichter**, Resource Center Coordinator at Pathfinders for Autism, and parent of a son with Autism, trainer since 2013

**Melinda Elliott**, MD, F.A.A.P. Senior Director, Education & Professional Development, Prolacta, former hospital doctor and parent of a son with Autism

**Thomas Whalen**, self-advocate, Itineris Baltimore client and active community volunteer

**Self-advocates** from various adult programs in Maryland support our training program, as needed