



## Your next patient has Autism ...Are you prepared?

Training Description for Hospitals and Healthcare Staff

**Y**our next patient does not use verbal communication, is hitting his head with his hands, and cries when staff attempt to remove his sunglasses and headphones. What are you thinking? How are you going to get the information you need from him?

In Maryland, 1 out of every 43 children is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It's not a question of IF you're going to have patients with Autism – it's really WHEN, and HOW FREQUENTLY.



### Objectives and Benefits of Pathfinders for Autism's Training

- Recognize characteristics to determine if someone has ASD
- Discuss actions that can easily be misinterpreted as bad behavior when it may be a medical issue
- Learn strategies for communication/language processing and de-escalation
- Understand the impact of sensory issues
- Experience characteristics through simulation exercises

### Purpose of this Training

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 how the strategies presented will play into their daily work experience.

### Our Curriculum and Training Team

Our curriculum does not address medical protocol. Rather, we focus on the primary areas of impact, including communication and language processing, sensory processing disorder, and challenges with social interaction and behaviors. 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 training team is comprised of parents of children with ASD as well presenters who have ASD themselves as their perspective and experiences are a critical element to the class. We also include videos produced by a parent of a son with ASD during a recent hospital stay.



*"We would like to thank you for participating in our Educational Training Day. Your presentation on working with children on the autism spectrum was insightful and informative. It was a pleasure to have your organization present at our training. We often work with children and families whose lives are complicated by autism spectrum disorder. The insight and education featured in your presentation will directly impact our service we provide to our community." University of Maryland, Dept. of Child Psychiatry*

*"I was one of the medical students in the audience today. Thank you for coming by and presenting to us. It was a very eye-opening experience and the stories and demonstrations really highlighted some of the many challenges autistic patients face. Your main message was very clear: autistic patients want to be treated with respect. And one of the main ways physicians can do that is to presume intellect." UMMS Medical Student*

