

LENDing a Hand in Primary Care

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When is the last time you were able to make a Primary Care Physician (PCP) appt.?

For over 61 million Americans who have disabilities, this can be quite a challenge.

- A 2022 survey showcased that only 50% of physicians strongly agreed they would welcome patients with disabilities into their practices and only 40% were confident with their ability to provide quality care to these individuals.¹
- 1 in 4 adults in the U.S. have a disability, making this a significant issue for this population.

What can we do about this?

- One goal of UC-Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) is to educate and support physicians to provide quality care for people of all ages with neurodevelopmental disabilities, such as Autism, ADHD, and even visual and hearing impairments.

REFERENCES

1 Clarke, L., & Fung, L. K. (2022). The impact of autism-related training programs on physician knowledge, self-efficacy, and practice behavior: A systematic review. *Autism*, 26(7), 1626–1640. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613221102016>

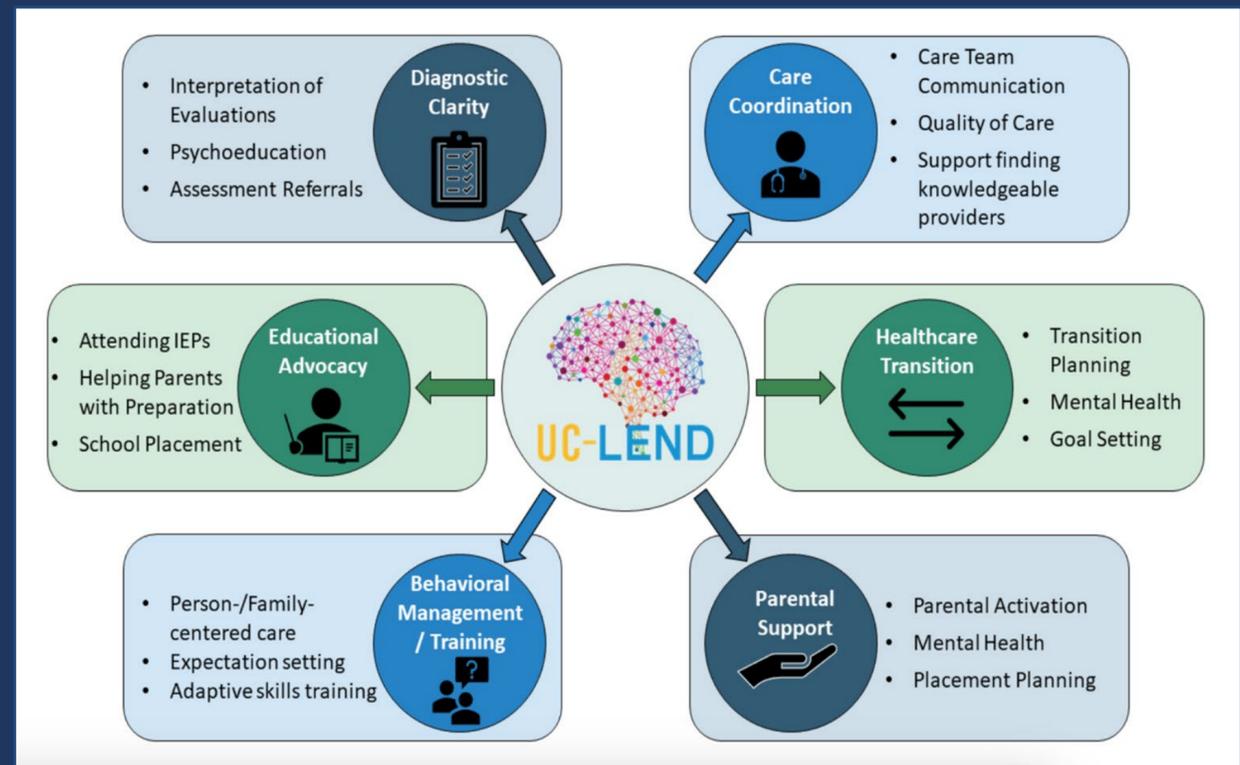
2 Roux, Anne M., Rast, Jessica E., Garfield, T., Shattuck, P., and Shea, Lindsay L. National Autism Indicators Report: Family Perspectives on Services and Supports. Philadelphia, PA: Life Course Outcomes Research Program, A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, May 2021.

LEND Model of Care

UC-LEND is an innovative primary care training clinic aimed at improving health care and quality of life for individuals with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities of all ages and their families.

Designed for primary care settings and utilizing an interdisciplinary team, this model centers on connecting patients with immediate resources rather than using a medical model focused on diagnostics.

Figure 1. Framework for LEND Model of Care



The delivery of health care in this population is often inextricably intertwined with other developmental domains. There is a need for communication and coordination with the patient, their family, and other health and community service providers.

What about pediatric to adult transitions?

Health care transition (HCT), coined by White (2018), is the process of moving from a child to an adult model of health care with or without a transfer to a new clinician regardless of neurodevelopmental factors.

- HCT spaces have yet to be established among those with autism, mainly due to insurers such as Medicaid.
- About 100,000 autistic youths turn 18 each year and will age out of care.²
- There will be an increasing demand for physicians who are able to provide longitudinal care to autistic patients in a variety of primary care and subspecialty settings.¹

Next Steps

A 2022 systematic review of autism-related training programs found that none of the existing programs measured changes in patient health outcomes.¹

- Increase longitudinal data collection to understand outcomes [i.e., Improving clinical intake, Goal tracking].
- Scaling our model to be implemented at other clinics.

Presented at the UCLA First Annual Neal Halfon Public Health Trainee Symposium in association with the UCLA Maternal and Child Health Center of Excellence and UC-LEND Training Programs on June 7, 2024.