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Consensus Panel for Assessing Usability and Acceptability of Mobile Health Autism Screeners

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Presenter Information

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Title: Consensus Panel for Assessing Usability and Acceptability of Mobile Health Autism Screeners

Keywords: Autism screening tools, usability, equitable access, accessible, recommendations

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Abstract:

Background:

Parents go online to assess whether their child has symptoms of autism. Though early autism identification is important, language, cultural, and technological barriers may impede equitable access to online autism screening tools.

Objective:

To create consensus recommendations for equitable design of autism screening apps and websites using an online panel of parents, autistic self-advocates, health and educational providers, autism researchers, and online screening tool developers.

Methods:

We invited 6 parents (4 of autistic and 2 of typically-developing children), 2 autistic adults, 3 early intervention providers, 3 pediatric primary care providers, and 3 autism online screening app/website developers to participate in a consensus panel, using a Modified Delphi design. The panel includes 3 asynchronous rounds of online discussion and voting and one live online videoconference. Participants initially received a multimedia summary (written summaries, videos, interactive polls) of prior research on screening tool usability/accessibility, and a list of preliminary design recommendations. In each round, participants discuss recommendations, make suggestions for alternative or additional recommendations, and vote for most important recommendations. The list of recommendations is iteratively revised and reduced after each round. In the final videoconference discussion, a consensus guideline will be created based on the recommendations vetted by panel participants.

Anticipated results:

The consensus panel is currently in process. Some example recommendations include:

- Screener should be accessible on multiple platforms (e.g., iOS, Android)
- parents should be able to complete screener in <10 minutes

Conclusion:

A multidisciplinary panel can help translate research findings to actionable recommendations for equitable autism screening.