

CENTER FOR HOLISTIC MEDICINE

Patient Consent For Treatment

Autism: Autism is a spectrum of disorders whose hallmarks are neurological deficits and developmental delays. The degree to which patients with Autism demonstrate impairment can vary significantly. The extent to which a patient can benefit from interventions through behavior as well as medical management can also vary greatly. The cause, diagnosis and treatment of ASD are not well understood, as a result there are many opinions and controversies that exist in the medical community regarding ASD management and treatment. The current view is that ASD is not treatable and that behavioral management is the most that can be offered at this time. Some physicians, whose view may be considered to be integrative, nutritional, complimentary or alternative, believe that there are biomedical interventions that may be useful. These are views that often change as clinical experience evolves; for example, the view that ASD children can have gastrointestinal problems that require medical treatment is now more accepted than it had been in the past.

It is widely recognized that medications are not typically helpful in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder. They may be useful in selected situations when behavior and sleep are out of control. A minority of physicians who work with ASD children and their families believe that biomedical interventions may make a difference. It is also clear that behavioral interventions can help many ASD children. Autism management ideally includes a combination of these therapies in addition to education and support for the whole family. At the Center for Holistic Medicine we combine steps to improve physical function and offer the family support and a realistic understanding of what may be possible with their child.

Biomedical interventions include but are not limited to, therapeutic uses of nutrition, management of diet, including the removal of toxic or allergenic foods, improving metabolism, detoxification of heavy metals and other environmental toxins, treating infections, oxygen therapies and frequency specific microcurrent treatments. The biomedical care of ASD patients also attempts to diagnose and treat underlying medical conditions that can occur at the same time as autism spectrum disorder, but which are challenging to find in uncommunicative patients, such as gastrointestinal illness.

Educational/behavioral suggested interventions may include but are not limited to behavioral therapies (ABA), speech therapy, occupational therapy, and vision therapy.

While some children and adults show remarkable recovery with interventions, and show great gains in eye contact, sociability, language, motor skills and behavior, it is important to recognize that others do not change. We cannot predict who will respond and to what extent they will respond. Even if we do everything to help an autistic child approximately 30% will not be helped. This is likely because the damage is either already permanent or due to abnormal genetics. At this time it is not possible to clearly determine who will benefit from therapy: in general, the only way to determine this is to attempt treatment and observe the response. We do know that those most likely

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to improve are those who are treated when they are younger, who have had a regressive form of autism and who have abnormalities on lab analysis that are correctable.

As a parent we recommend you do all that you can to be well-informed and a team member. We suggest reading, attending conferences, searching through websites and joining parent support groups. Maintain good communications with all of your clinicians. Become a good observer and keep records of interventions and results to them. It is also wise to factor in personal grief: you as a parent must recognize, work through and adjust to your own stage of grieving to be the most effective in helping your child.

Management of Other chronic illnesses: In addition to Autism, The center for holistic medicine treats children and adults with other chronic illnesses and acute medical conditions. These include, but are not limited to chronic fatigue syndrome, food sensitivities, allergies, gastrointestinal disorders, autoimmune and other metabolic disorders.

I understand that my/my child's symptoms may relate to underlying medical issues and that I am not seeking a treatment or cure of a disease, but rather an individualized biomedical approach focusing on me/my child.

Biomedical interventions include, but are not limited to, therapeutic uses of nutrition, management of dietary problems, including the removal of toxic or allergenic foods from the diet, improving metabolism, detoxification of heavy metals and environmental toxins, treating infections and oxygen therapies.

While some children and adults show remarkable recovery with interventions, it is important to recognize that others do not. We cannot tell in advance who will respond or how much they will respond. At this time it is not possible to clearly determine which patients will benefit from therapy: in general, the only way to determine this is to attempt treatment and observe the response.

As a parent we recommend you do all that you can to be well- informed and a team member. We suggest reading, attending conferences, searching through websites and joining parent support groups. Maintain good communications with all of your clinicians. Become a good observer and keep records of interventions and results to them. It is also wise to factor in personal grief; you as a parent must recognize, work through and adjust to your own stage of grieving to be the most effective in helping your child.

Please note the following with regard to treatment of you or your child:

Controversial Nature of Treatment: Care may include non-conventional services, also known as complimentary, alternative, integrative or functional medicine. Specialized services may not be widely recognized within the traditional medical profession or about which there may be disagreement among qualified medical experts. Such treatments may include off-label use of

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medications or medical devices which means they are used at the physician's discretion for a different condition than approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Medications may also be used or prescribed that are only available when compounded by a pharmacy rather than as a standard prescription. Physician use of laboratory results from specialty labs may not be recognized by professional medical associations or academic institutions involved in the setting of common diagnostic standards established for broad use by physicians.

No Guarantees: Since medicine is an art as well as a science, and since each patient's situation includes variables that are unique and at times not fully understood, and as described above there is no guarantee that satisfactory results will be achieved.

Potential risks: If a suggested therapy contains the risk of adverse consequences it will be discussed and consent obtained prior to engaging in it.

Financial responsibility Patients or their parents/guardians are personally responsible for payment for services rendered, even if the insurer should determine that the therapy is noncovered or any dispute arises about whether the therapy is reimbursable.

Parental custody and waiver: If the patient is a minor child, I certify that I am either the parent or legal guardian and that I have custody for the purposes of authorizing medical treatment. To the best of my knowledge there is no disagreement between parents/guardians about care decisions. I will hold physician and his or her staff harmless in the event that there is ever a parental disagreement about this care.

Consent to Treatment:

I knowingly and willingly give my consent on behalf of myself or my minor child. I have had ample opportunity to discuss the nature, anticipated costs, risks, benefits and experience of undergoing these treatments and the reasons for recommendations for such treatment. Any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I certify that I understand this authorization and the risks of possible complications. I understand that medical treatment is an evolving art and that treatment results are not guaranteed or may result in unexpected adverse events. While my doctor and her staff will take reasonable precautions to ensure my child's safety. I am willing to assume the risks of treatment whether known or unknown. If I ever have any claim with respect to the services and treatment given to me by Dr. Katarzyna Ferraro, at the Center for Holistic Medicine or their staff, that claim shall be judged by the standards and principles of physicians who provide complementary, alternative, functional or integrative medicine. I agree to be financially responsible for these treatments. I represent that I am seeking diagnosis and treatment in order to further my own or my child's health and for no other reason.

If the patient is a minor child in which only one parent has medical custody and the non presenting parent has no rights with respect to the delivery of medical care, the custodial parent shall attach a

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court document showing that he or she has sole medical custody and the second parent has no rights to be involved in medical decision making.

Patient is: ___ Adult ___ Minor (check one)

If the patient is an adult, I demonstrate my on going consent with my signature below.

Patient's printed name

Dated

If patient is an Adult:

Date: _____

_____ Patient (printed name)

_____ Patient (Signature)

If patient is a Minor:

Date: _____

_____ Patient/guardian name _____ Witness (Printed Name)

Printed

_____ Patient/guardian name printed _____ Witness(Printed name)

Date: _____

_____ Patient/guardian name _____ Witness (Printed Name)

Printed

_____ Patient/guardian name printed _____ Witness(Printed name)

Please initial here _____