**Appendix 1: Case Description**

Jacob is a 20-month-old boy who has been referred to your general paediatric practice by his family physician because concerns about his development were identified at his 18-month screen. Specifically, he is not yet using words and rarely babbles. He does not use gestures to communicate, but will pull his parents’ hands towards the item he wants. His gross motor skills are age-appropriate. He can stack many blocks and could spend hours doing this. He also likes to look at the lights in a room through his fingers. His parents say that he only makes fleeting eye contact when he wants something. He does not point out objects of interest. The family physician has written “?ASD” on the referral.

**Appendix 2: Interview Guide**

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. We will begin by discussing the case you just read.

1. How would you approach this case if Jacob was referred to you?
   1. Prompts – time booked, timing of appointment, standardized tools, history/physical/observation
2. Would you give a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder? Why or why not?
   1. If referral – where?
   2. What would you tell the parents?

Now I’ll ask you some more general questions about your experience with ASD.

1. Tell me about your experiences of children with suspected autism.
   1. (Prompts – comfort level, beliefs about role, beliefs about role of specialists in making diagnosis, knowledge of and comfort with available services, description of success stories and negative experiences)
2. Tell me about your experiences of children whom you have referred on for a subspecialist referral.
   1. (Prompts – waitlist, available services in the meantime, parental anxiety, success stories)
3. Is the diagnosis of autism different than other developmental or behavioral diagnoses you give in your practice? Why/why not?
   1. (Prompts – time, previous training, associated stigma of diagnosis, availability of treatment)
4. Are there any factors that make you more likely to give a diagnosis of autism?
   1. (Prompts: personal, patient, family, system)
5. Are there any factors that make you less likely to give a diagnosis of autism?
   1. (Prompts: personal, patient, family, system)
6. In your experience in the current system in Ontario, what is the pediatrician’s role in ASD (diagnosis, follow-up)?
7. Considering the relative scarcity of subspecialist assessments and the long wait lists for these services, could the role of the pediatrician expand to take on some of the diagnostic demand? How?

As you know, we’re doing this study to look at the role of pediatricians in ASD diagnosis. Are there questions I should have asked but didn’t? Do you have anything else to add?