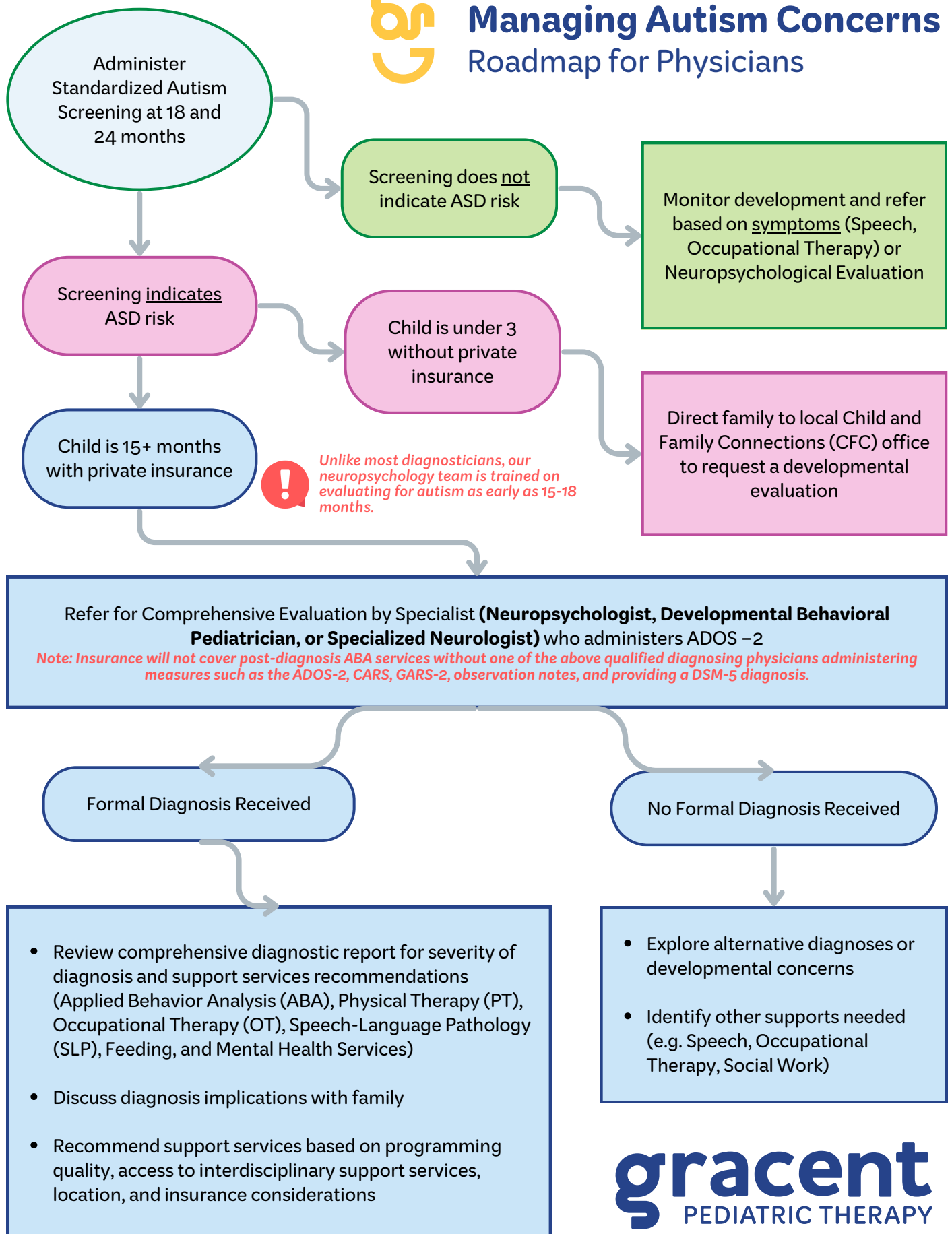




Managing Autism Concerns Roadmap for Physicians



Considerations for Autism Testing & Support Services



Early Autism Testing

- Qualified professionals who formally diagnose autism are **Neuropsychologists, Developmental Behavioral Pediatricians, and Specialized Neurologists.**
BCBAs (Board-Certified Behavior Analysts) are not licensed medical or psychological diagnosticians. While they can be trained to administer assessments, they cannot provide a diagnosis or comprehensive testing and rely on pediatricians signing off on a final diagnosis.
- Insurance will not cover post-diagnosis ABA services without one of the above qualified diagnosing physicians administering and submitting measures such as the **ADOS-2, CARS, GARS-2, thorough observation notes, and providing a DSM-5 diagnosis.**
- **Drs. Greg Stasi, PhD and Rhiannon Law, PhD** are Gracent's in-house neuropsychologists, able to see kids 4 and under for autism assessments **covered by insurance within 3-4 weeks.** An in-house neuropsychology department ensures clinical collaboration and regular re-evaluations per insurance requirements to eliminate gaps in support services.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

- ABA is based on decades of research in behavioral science and is endorsed by the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** and the **U.S. Surgeon General.** ABA helps autistic children develop communication, social, academic, and daily living skills while reducing behaviors that may interfere with learning or safety. Examples of ABA goals include **teaching a child to request help, engage in social interactions, or independently complete routines like brushing teeth.**
- High-quality ABA programs are delivered in an interdisciplinary environment, where children have access to other specialized, licensed professionals such as **Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Social Workers, and Neuropsychologists.**
While ABA services can be time-intensive, especially to increase success at an early age, look out for providers who blanket 35-40 hours per week treatment recommendations for all families or attempt to discourage participation in traditional school environments.
- Gracent's ABA programming includes a **learner readiness program** with social skills support, an **interdisciplinary team**, a focus on **assent-based care**, and **natural environment, play-based teaching.** Our clinical recommendations are individualized to each child's diagnosis, support needs, and other therapies received. Our goal is to fade services over time as progress is made.