

## CONSENT FORM

You are invited to take part in a research study of considering prenatal body mass index (BMI) at 12-weeks of pregnancy as a risk factor for a child's later diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). You were chosen for the study because you have two healthy children: one who has been diagnosed with ASD, one not. This form is part of a process called "informed consent" to allow you to understand this study before deciding whether to take part.

A researcher named Ruth Ann Hendrix, who is a doctoral student at Walden University, is conducting this study.

### **Background Information:**

The purpose of this study is to determine if there are things that happen during the early pregnancy period that may contribute to a child's later diagnosis of autism. Body mass index is one thing to be studied; another will be birth order, and other events that may be listed in the prenatal medical record.

### **Procedures:**

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to:

1. Complete this consent form.
2. Get a copy of your prenatal record for each pregnancy from your medical care provider. Should the medical records during the time period requested be in an electronic format, please use the data collected form to be certain the necessary information is included.
3. Fill in the data collection form provided as there is information that is needed that will not be in the medical chart.
4. Provide proof of the child's autism spectrum disorder by a copy of a medical form, an insurance record, or a school record with the child's name and diagnosis.

### **Voluntary Nature of the Study:**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. This means that everyone will respect your decision of whether or not you want to be in the study. No one at Walden University will treat you differently if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind during the study. If you feel stressed during the study you may stop at any time. You may skip any questions that you feel are too personal. You may choose to withdraw any time by notifying the researcher.

There will be minimal risk to you. The potential benefits will be to future mothers who will have more information to ensure a healthy pregnancy for a healthy child.

No compensation will be given to be in the study. To increase participation, a random lottery of those who have sent in all the data necessary to be included, will be done on April 30, 2010. Two randomly selected participants will each receive a \$30 online gift card from Amazon.com. The card will be sent either electronically or via U.S. Mail.

Any information you provide will be kept confidential. Only the researcher will have access to the personal identifiers. All data will be collected, aggregated, and analyzed. The results will only be given in a combined form. The researcher will not use your information for any purposes outside of this research project. Also, the researcher will not include your name or anything else that could identify you in any reports of the study.

You may ask any questions you have at any time, you may contact the researcher either by phone 812.497.3099 or 812.707.1452 or email [ruthann.hendrix@waldenu.edu](mailto:ruthann.hendrix@waldenu.edu). If you want to talk privately about your rights as a participant, you can call Dr. Leilani Endicott. She is the Walden University representative who can discuss this with you. Her phone number is 1-800-925-3368, extension 1210. Walden University's approval number for this study is **02-15-10-0332414** and it expires on **February 14, 2011**.

You may keep a copy of this form.

**Statement of Consent:**

I have read the above information and I feel I understand the study well enough to make a decision about my involvement. By signing below, I am agreeing to the terms described above.

Printed Name of Participant

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Date of consent

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Participant's Written or Electronic\* Signature

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Researcher's Written or Electronic\* Signature

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Electronic signatures are regulated by the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. Legally, an "electronic signature" can be the person's typed name, their email address, or any other identifying marker. An electronic signature is just as valid as a written signature as long as both parties have agreed to conduct the transaction electronically.