

February 22, 2010

Dear Provider or Administrator:

A patient that has been seen at your medical practice is seeking copies of her medical records in order to participate in a research study. Ruth Ann Hendrix, a PhD student from Walden University, is conducting a study using mothers' prenatal medical records to determine if body mass index at 12-weeks of pregnancy is a factor in a child's later diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Because it is a case control study matched by mother, the prenatal records of two pregnancies will be needed. A copy of the medical record and the results of any tests during the prenatal period for the two births will be needed for inclusion the study. If your office is using some type of electronic health record stored on some type of information technology system, the participant may use the data collection form. Some type of documentation of the diagnosis of ASD of the child is also needed.

All patient records during the prenatal period for each child from January 1, 1992 to December 31, 2007 are requested. It is requested that the copies be given to the patient so they can be mailed to the researcher to PO Box 68, Cortland, IN 47228 or emailed to Ruthann.hendrix@waldenu.edu.

If you have any questions, please call Ruth Ann Hendrix at 812.497.3099 or 812.707.1452.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Hendrix, MPH
PhD Student Public Health
Walden University

Note to participant: This letter is provided for your convenience to give your doctor or medical practice staff information as to why you are requesting your medical records.