

## Supplemental Material S5. Social validity interview protocol.

### Semi-Structured Interview Protocol

*Thank you for agreeing to participate in this conversation. The purpose of this interview is to better understand your experience in this research study and to hear your perspective on EMT and the MyCap surveys.*

*I will be recording this conversation so I don't miss anything you say. Nobody outside of our research team will have access to this recording. Before we get started, do you have any questions? If at any point you have a question for me, feel free to ask. Are you ready to begin?*

#### GENERAL DYAD RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS

*I'm going to begin with a few warm-up questions. To start out, I'm going to be asking you some questions about [CHILD NAME].*

1. Tell me about your child.

- a. What is your favorite thing about him/her?
- b. When does your child make you smile?

2. What do they do that makes you proud?

3. How does your child communicate with you?

- a. Has this changed since beginning this study? How?
  - i. What are some new ways your child is communicating?

4. Has your relationship with your child changed since starting the study?

- a. **[Give examples if needed]** *"It's easier, I enjoy my child more, it's harder, we struggle more, our interactions last longer"*

*I'm also interested in learning a little bit about you, and have a few questions about your relationship with [CHILD NAME]*

5. Tell me about your interactions with your child. **[Give examples if needed]** *"I spend most of my time doing regular caretaking (feeding, getting dressed, going out, getting ready for naps or bedtime)."*

- a. Do you play with your child?
- b. What is your favorite way to spend time with your child?
- c. What are some of your least favorite times with your child?
- d. When does your child seem to enjoy interacting with you most?

<b>GENERAL INTERVENTION SOCIAL VALIDITY</b>
<i>Next we'll discuss the J-EMT intervention that you've been learning over the past [X] weeks. We're genuinely interested in how you feel about this intervention and your experiences learning it. Your answers will help us create a better intervention for future families with newly diagnosed children with ASD. Please be honest, your answers will not hurt my or anyone else's feelings!</i>
6. What did you learn about how children communicate?  a. What did you learn about engaging your child in play and interactions?
7. Did you find learning the intervention helpful?  b. What strategies (teaching, modeling, practice, feedback) did you find the most helpful? c. What strategies did you find the least helpful?
8. Which strategies do you feel confident in using?  d. Which strategies did you feel worked <i>best</i> ? e. Which strategies worked the <i>least</i> well?
9. What would you have liked more opportunities to learn?  f. Is there anything you wish we had spent less time on?
10. What was easy and what was hard about learning the intervention?
11. Did learning these strategies and participating in intervention help with your level of stress?  g. How so?
12. Which strategies do you think you might continue to use?  h. Which strategies felt like they were not right for you or your child?
<b>INTERVENTION ADAPTATION VIA MYCAP</b>
<i>For the last section of our interview, I will ask you a few questions about the biweekly MyCap surveys that you filled out prior to your virtual intervention sessions.</i>
13. Was filling out the MyCap Survey ever helpful?
14. What did you enjoy or not enjoy about the MyCap survey?
15. How much time did filling out MyCap take you?  a. Did filling out MyCap take too long each time? b. Did we ask you to do it too often?

16. Did MyCap capture everything you would want to say to your therapist between sessions?
17. How could the MyCap survey be improved?
a. Do you have ideas about how we could have made it easier, more useful, or better?
<b>Ask Questions 6 and 7 if the caregiver selected any adaptations during the study.</b> <b>[PRESENT LIST OF ADAPTATIONS.]</b> <i>Here are the adaptations you have requested since starting intervention. Take a moment to consider them before we go over the last questions.</i>
18. Which, if any, of these changes were helpful?
a. Which ones were most helpful?
19. Which, if any, of these changes weren't helpful?
a. Why weren't they helpful?
<b>Ask Question 20 only if no adaptations were requested.</b> <i>It shows that you did not request any adaptations to the intervention.</i>
20. Can you share a little bit about why you did not select any?
<b>Ask Questions 20 - 23 to all caregivers.</b>
21. Were there changes to the intervention that you wanted but <b><i>weren't</i></b> available?
22. Did you feel adequately connected to your therapist?
a. What would have made you feel more connected?
23. What would you tell another parent of a child with ASD about this intervention?
b. Would you recommend this intervention?
24. At this point in your child's life, what would be helpful for you as a parent?