Promoting Children’s Health, Development and Safety and Preventing Child Maltreatment
The Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) Model

**Background**
Child maltreatment (CM) is a major problem
> 6 million children reported to protective services annually
Many short- and long-term problems

Effective prevention strategies much needed
Pediatric primary care offers an excellent opportunity
Existing infrastructure, many visits (0 – 5 years)
Good relationships with parents
Goal of prevention is central
Broad interest in promoting children’s health, development, safety

**The SEEK Model**
- SEEK trained primary care providers (PCPs)
- SEEK Parent Questionnaire (PQ)
- Brief assessment of identified problems
- Motivational Interviewing principles
- Initially help address problems
- PCP/social work/behavioral health
- Knowledge of community resources
- SEEK Parent Handouts

**SEEK Goals**
- To help address prevalent psychosocial problems
- To support parents and parenting
- To strengthen families
- To promote children’s health, development and safety
- To prevent child abuse and neglect

**How SEEK Works**
- At start of visit, parent given SEEK PQ
- Parent completes PQ while waiting
- Parent gives PQ to doctor or nurse
- Identified problems addressed by PCP or social worker
- SEEK Parent Handout
- Referral to community agencies
- Follow up

**Brief Intervention - REAP**
R eflect
E mpathize
A ssess
P lan

**The SEEK Parent Questionnaire**
- Evidence-based
- Brief
- Easy to read
- Answer yes/no
- Convenient

**Two Randomized Controlled Trials**
- Sustained improvement in PCP thinking and practice
- Decreased child abuse and neglect
- No significant increase in PCP time

**Cost Analysis**
- SEEK: cost $210 per case prevented
- Compare to $14,520 ($1,993 – $21,400) for medical & mental health for one physically abused or psychologically maltreated child
- SEEK is cost saving

**For More Information**
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