

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



Parent Questionnaire (PQ)

Dear Parent or Guardian: Being a parent can be a hard job. We want to help families have a safe environment for kids. So we're asking parents these questions. They are about problems that affect every family. If there are problems, we'll try to help.

Please answer the questions about your child being safe today. You're checking: If there's more than one child, please answer "yes" if it applies to any one of them. This is voluntary. You don't have to answer any question you prefer not to.

Today's date: _____ Doctor's Name: _____
Doctor's Office or Birthplace: _____

At HOME (PQ1)

Yes No Do you need the phone number for Police Control?

Yes No Do you need a doctor's office for your house?

Yes No Does someone smoke tobacco or hash?

Yes No Do the last year, did someone throw their medications in your trash? Did someone throw their medications in the trash because they didn't want to take them?

Yes No Do the last year, did the food you bought just rot out and you didn't have money to get more?

Yes No Do you often fight with your child? Do you often fight with your child?

Yes No Do you often feel angry or nervous? Do you often feel angry or nervous?

Yes No Do the past month, have you been very tired, stressed, or hopeless? Do you feel tired, stressed, or hopeless?

Yes No Do the past year, have you been very angry or stressed or angry?

Yes No Do the past year, does your child feel afraid of you?

Yes No Do the past year, does your child feel afraid of you?

Yes No Do the past year, does your child feel afraid of you?

Yes No Do the past year, does your child feel afraid of you?

Please give this form to the doctor or nurse you're seeing today. Thank you!

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Brief Intervention - REAP

Reflect
Empathize
Assess
Plan

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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