

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



The image shows a 'Parent Questionnaire (PQ)' form from the SEEK model. It includes instructions for parents to bring the form to their child's doctor's visit. The form contains a series of questions about the child's health, behavior, and safety, with 'Yes' and 'No' response options. The questions cover topics such as:

- Do you need the phone number for Poison Control?
- Do you need a stable place for your home?
- Do you smoke alcohol tobacco or drugs?
- Do the last year, did you worry that your child would run away before you got money or Food Stamps to buy food?
- Do the last year, did the food you bought get run out and you didn't have money to get more?
- Do you often feel your child is difficult to take care of?
- Do you sometimes feel you need to discipline your child?
- Do you wish you had more help with your child?
- Do you often feel under extreme stress?
- Do the past month, have you been felt down, depressed, or frustrated?
- Do the past month, have you had any stress, tension, or anger in your life?
- Do the past year, have you been off of your partner?
- Do the past year, have you had any problems with drugs or alcohol?
- Do the past year, have you felt this need to run back or drink or drug use? Are there any other problems you'd like help with now?

 At the bottom, it says 'Please give this form to the doctor or nurse you're seeing today. Thank you!' and '©2012, University of Maryland School of Medicine'.

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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