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Implementation of the Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) Model in the Early Detection of Psychosocial Risk Factors for Child Maltreatment in Pediatric Primary Care

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Child maltreatment is a significant health disparity that is often overlooked or underdiagnosed, leading to poor outcomes from childhood through adulthood.

**Methods:** The Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) model was implemented at a small pediatric practice in Atlanta, Georgia. Provider data were collected before and after the project's implementation to measure provider comfort, knowledge, experience of child maltreatment. The Parent Questionnaire (PQ-R) was given to patient samples. Targeted educational handouts and community referrals were offered to families with positive screens.

**Results:** Fifty-five percent of eligible (n=111) visits were given screens and 65 were positive. Results revealed that safety (40.5%), stress (26.1%), depression (13.5%), and food insecurity (12.6%) were identified as the most prevalent risk factors within the sample. Providers voiced that they are comfortable screening for risk factors but would like more training and support, also that the SEEK model was beneficial in primary care.

**Discussion:** Routine screening of psychosocial risk factors is vital in child maltreatment prevention and management. This project demonstrates that the SEEK model can successfully identify adversities in vulnerable families.

**Key Words:** Child maltreatment, SEEK model, psychosocial screening, pediatric care primary care, adversities.

