

# The SEEK Newsletter

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**SEEK's Mission**  
**Strengthen families**  
**Support parents and parenting,**  
**promote children's health,**  
**development and safety, and**  
**prevent child maltreatment**

## Research updates

**CHADIS study:** Three-year study to determine how software based on the SEEK model can help prevent child abuse and neglect and improve children's development and behavior.

**Swedish study:** A study in Dalarna County, Sweden on the effectiveness of the SEEK model in preventing child maltreatment through identifying children living in families with psychosocial challenges.

## Billing

CPT 96161 enables providers to bill for having parents complete the SEEK Parent Questionnaire-R. This code covers care provided to parents during children's checkups. Check to see if and what local insurers pay for this code

## SEEK around the world

**United States:** Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

**International:** Sweden, Italy.

[www.SEEKwellbeing.org](http://www.SEEKwellbeing.org)

**Please visit our new and improved website!**

## News from the SEEK Team

**The SEEK National Study:** Dr. Dubowitz and his team received grant funds from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the dissemination and implementation of the SEEK model.

Primary care offers an excellent opportunity to help address prevalent psychosocial problems (e.g., parental depression) that are risk factors for child maltreatment (CM). By addressing such problems that are also social determinants of health, SEEK can strengthen families and support parents, and thereby promote children's health, development and safety, help prevent CM, and benefit the health of the population.

Despite strong supporting evidence from two large federally-funded randomized controlled trials, SEEK has not been widely adopted. The NIH recognized more than two decades ago that even after treatments or interventions had been shown to be effective, there was often a long lag before they were broadly adopted. That led to the development of the field of 'implementation science' to understand what facilitates or impedes the adoption, implementation and sustainability of innovations in health care, such as SEEK.

The overarching goal of the study is to examine two increasingly common approaches to primary care professional (PCP) education to scale-up SEEK - in pediatric and family medicine primary care practices. One approach involves independent online training, the other in-depth structured training and a Quality Improvement project. The latter has been approved as a Maintenance of Certification 4 or Practice Improvement Activity, by the American Boards of Pediatrics and Family Medicine respectively. In addition, we'll evaluate the *SEEKonline* software that assists busy PCPs implement SEEK, compared to the traditional paper and pencil approach. We'll also assess the economic costs associated with implementing SEEK and the model's effectiveness in preventing CM.

The knowledge gained should improve primary care for children and their families. We think parents will appreciate the care and concern shown for their family. In addition, we hope to contribute to the fields of primary care and implementation science, and guide future interventions addressing social determinants of child health.

**New team members:** The SEEK Project is happy to welcome two new team members: Rosemarie Belanger PhD (Rose) and Ugonna Nwosu MBBS, MPH, MS (Ugo) who joined us in January as co-coordinators on the SEEK National Study.