Addressing Family Strengths and Concerns:

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- We cannot help families unless we meet them where they are. And we cannot meet them where they are unless we ask the right questions.

What is PRESIPS2

- Bright Futures Preventive Services Improvement State Spread Project
- Partnership between selected chapters and state Maternal and Child Health stakeholders to improve Bright Futures implementation

What counts as meeting Bright Futures requirements for select measures?

- Family Strengths: A particular place in the visit note where family strengths are recorded. Preferably in a part of the plan that is shared with families (PRESIPS2 measures 6 and 7)
- Family Concerns: Any notation in the chart note for the visit, either in a designated spot or as free text and/or use of the Bright Futures Pre-Visit Questionnaire or something similar. When family concerns are recorded, there must also be a notation that they were addressed (PRESIPS2 measures 1 and 2)

What counts as meeting Bright Futures requirements for select measures?

- Social and Environmental Determinants of health- A screen such as the SEEK documented as having been used with actions taken based upon results, or other similar criteria determined by the practice (PRESIPS2 measures 8 and 9)
3 simple questions, 1 simple screen

- Question 1- Do you have any questions? (family concerns)
- Question 2- Do you have any concerns? (family concerns)
- Question 3- What do you think has gone really well for your child and your family recently? (family strengths)
- And the screen- SEEK (social and environmental determinants of health)

SEEK- How can we use these results to help families?

- Do your homework first.
- Compile resources and contacts.
- Know your practice demographics. The concerns of a family living in rural Clinton, SC may be very different from those of a family living in downtown Columbia. Their potential resources will vary greatly as well.

My minimally scientific study- 25 consecutive SEEK screens

- Firearm ownership- 12
- Passive Smoke Exposure- 4 (but beware of the wording of the question- Does anyone smoke tobacco at home?)
- Depression-2
- Child is difficult to Care For- 2
- Food Insecurity- 3
- Need Poison Control number- 2
- Domestic Violence- 1
What have I learned from using SEEK?

- Our families own a lot of firearms. Most, but definitely not all of them, are stored safely.
- Food insecurity is a significant problem for many of our families and seems to be positively correlated with obesity.
- Depression is a major problem for some of our families and they may not mention it if we don’t screen for it.

What have we learned from SEEK?

- Few of our families report a history of domestic violence but those who do are usually struggling and in need of support and resources.

What have we learned from SEEK?

- Helping a family to recognize and appreciate their strengths can help to open the conversations to address their concerns. Social and Environmental determinants of health factor strongly into this.
- Ex. “So you’ve mentioned that you wish you had more help with your child. Tell me what type of help you have right now.”
- “Oh, so you have your aunt and your mother helping you twice a week. It’s great that your child gets to spend time with them. Let’s talk about other ways that you might be able to get some help.”

How can we elicit Family Strengths?

- Strengths can be elicited from general questions, conversation generated by the SEEK, PSC, PSC-Y or from the Healthy Habits Questionnaire (Obesity Toolkit)
- Are you reading with your child?
- Do you eat meals together as a family?
- Do you exercise together as a family?
Bright Futures Strengths

- Many topics covered
- Questions are easy to understand
- Good smoke exposure question - Does your child live with anyone who uses tobacco or spend time in any place where people smoke?

Bright Futures Weaknesses

- Too many topics covered - A visit addressing all of the potential issues listed would take hours.
- Some of the questions are simply too broad - i.e., Have any of your baby’s relatives developed new medical problems since your last visit? Please describe.

How do we incorporate this at Palmetto Pediatrics?

- Parental concerns are elicited and documented by the staff when the patient is initially brought to the exam room. Responses are documented by the physician.
- SEEK used at well visits under age 6 which do not involve another major screen. All parents are given a resource sheet even if the results are negative.
- Concerns from the SEEK documented and responses documented. Screen is automatically billed when it is checked off by the MD.
Where can we document Family Strengths?

- Within the History or Care Plan section of the well visit note
  (fairly easy to document and to track)
- Within free text areas of the well visit note
  (easy to document, more difficult to track)

How about the Bright Futures Questionnaire?