

HEALTH LITERACY FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Maureen P. Cardoza, Ph.D., RN; Lisa Sparacino, Ph.D.(c), RN; Anne Ganzer, Ph.D., RN; Susan Neville, Ph.D., RN
New York Institute of Technology, School of Health Professions, Department of Nursing

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Health care providers recognize the importance of patients as active participants in their own wellness and illness management.
- Few clinicians actively and consistently evaluate the degree of Health Literacy in association with the needs of their patients and family.
- Health Literacy relates to the communication, culture, and cognitive aspects of patients understanding their care.
- There is an urgent need to transform the practice of all healthcare workers that increases the awareness, understanding, and importance of addressing Health Literacy levels.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The program was designed to provide an educational opportunity for health care providers, academics, students, and service providers with the Health Literacy needs of multi-generational and ethnic populations.

Topics include:

- Definition of Health Literacy
- Screening measures
- Counseling techniques
- Strategies that promote Health Literacy among groups at risk

Program:

- The Health Literacy Challenge: Some Strategies
- Health Literacy and the Older Population
- Health Literacy Screening and Counseling

IMPLICATION FOR POLICY, DELIVERY AND PRACTICE

This conference fostered collaborative circles of Health Literacy knowledge among academics, community, and service partners.

POLICY: Improve communication dynamics between health care disciplines, policy makers, and academics to create supportive environments that foster the development and the inclusion of Health Literacy strategies.

PRACTICE: Improve the delivery of information at the point of care that create supportive environments seeking to increase Health Literacy among vulnerable populations.

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM: Encourage educators and leaders to include Health Literacy as an initiative for creating cultural environments that support practitioners with expertise in Health Literacy.

TARGET POPULATION

- Educators
- Students
- Physicians
- Dentists
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Physician Assistants
- Physical Therapists
- Mental Health Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Nutritionists

OUTCOME / IMPACT

Participants will:

1. Identify and describe the extent of the United States and global Health Literacy problems which includes low English proficiency and subpopulations most commonly affected.
2. Recognize signs of low literacy and utilize evaluation tools that screen for limited Health Literacy.
3. Improve communication techniques and strategies to counsel clients with limited Health Literacy.
4. Apply practical learning techniques that empower clients to be more active in their medical care by the *Ask-Me-Three* technique.
5. Evaluate health literature and utilize data bases related to Health Literacy and patient education resources.

EVALUATION

At the conclusion of this educational program participants identified a significant improvement in their awareness and knowledge of the components of Health Literacy.

Participants overall indicated that as a result of this program they are empowered to include Health Literacy communication and strategies into their practice.

“ I know that with my efforts as a nurse and patient educator, emphasizing Health Literacy, I can make a big difference for the patients and provide them with the best quality of care toward the best possible outcomes.”



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