There’s an iBook for That: Contemporary Technology Helps Meet Stroke Patients’ Health Literacy Needs
Darlene Bowman, RN, BN, CNN(c), Heather Jenkins, BSc Biochemistry, BSc PT, Delanya Podgers, RN(EC), MN, BSc., CNN(c)
Kingston General Hospital, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Objectives
• To gain insight into what concerns our stroke patients and their loved ones, what information matters to them and how they want to receive and access that information
• To encourage and support optimal participation in health by ensuring that patients can understand and use the information they need

Target Population
• Stroke survivors, loved ones and caregivers who visit Kingston General Hospital (KGH)
• KGH is the regional stroke centre for southeastern Ontario, and serves people who live in a 12,500-square-mile predominantly rural area

Approach
• Face-to-Face interviews with patients, loved ones & Patient Experience Advisors (PEA)
• Surveys
• Interprofessional healthcare team
• Community partners
• Health literacy evidence
• Best Practice
• Precede-Proceed Planning Model

Implementation
• Using common themes identified by stroke survivors, loved ones, healthcare providers and the Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for Stroke we developed a high quality educational guide entitled “Partners in Stroke Recovery”
• Following health literacy and plain language principles we produced the guide in print and iBook format. We field tested with stakeholders and revised based on feedback

Feedback
• “The iPad is compatible with assistive devices”
• “iBook behaves in a predictable easy to use way”
• “I had my family in Germany download it”
• “I love the “For Better or For Worse” Comics”

Impact
• iBooks can be used both independently and in collaboration with healthcare providers as tools to meet patient and family health literacy needs and to enhance education and engagement

Next Steps
• Leverage iPads and iBooks to expand educational opportunities for patients and families
• Develop policies and strategies for IT support to allow more extensive use of these contemporary technologies in the acute care setting

References
Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for Stroke, www.strokebestpractices.ca
Canadian Council on Learning, www.ccl.ca
Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2010
Writing Health Information for Patients and Families, 2008

Partners in Stroke Recovery iBook
Search “Kingston General Hospital”

Ontario Health Literacy Map
Proportion of adult health literacy at Level 2 and below
0-50% 51-54% 55-58% 59-62% 63-66% 67-70% 71-74% 75-78% 79-82% above 82%

Kingston indicated with arrow

Surveys
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Research
• Health literacy evidence
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