



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Breakout Session 1

Health Literacy

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Health Literacy

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matthew 25

aids services

What made us think about health literacy?

- We've noticed a wide range of different health literacy levels throughout our patients.
- We sometimes get into using a lot of acronyms and medical language that is not common every day use for others outside the medical field.
- We want to make sure all our patients have a good understanding of their care and can be in control of their health.

What do we use?

- We use the Short Assessment of Health Literacy-English (SAHL-E) and the Short Assessment of Health Literacy-Spanish (SAHL-S)
- We administer the test via laminated flash cards during a patients intake.
 - If we find that already established patients are in need of this assessment, we will administer to them as well.

Administration
of health
literacy
screening

Health Literacy Flash cards



Scoring of health literacy assessment

1. kidney	__urine	__fever	__don't know
2. occupation	__work	__education	__don't know
3. medication	__instrument	__treatment	__don't know
4. nutrition	__healthy	__soda	__don't know
5. miscarriage	__loss	__marriage	__don't know
6. infection	__plant	__virus	__don't know
7. alcoholism	__addiction	__recreation	__don't know
8. pregnancy	__birth	__childhood	__don't know
9. seizure	__dizzy	__calm	__don't know
10. dose	__sleep	__amount	__don't know
11. hormones	__growth	__harmony	__don't know
12. abnormal	__different	__similar	__don't know
13. directed	__instruction	__decision	__don't know
14. nerves	__bored	__anxiety	__don't know
15. constipation	__blocked	__loose	__don't know
16. diagnosis	__evaluation	__recovery	__don't know
17. hemorrhoids	__veins	__heart	__don't know
18. syphilis	__contraception	__condom	__don't know

Scoring of health literacy assessment

- The answer key is laminated, with the correct answers highlighted.
- The nurse administering the test will mark and tally up the score out of the total 18.
- The item is counted wrong if the word is mispronounced or if the wrong associated word is picked. Each line is worth 1 point in total.
- Scores between 0-14 suggest examinee has low health literacy.

Utilization of Health literacy Assessment

- What do we do with the assessment now that it's complete?
 - In our clinical system we have an area to annotate their health literacy score.
 - It is documented in the intake note as well.
 - We make sure all staff that will interact with patient is aware of health literacy issues.
 - This helps staff to adjust their language to fit the patients understanding.

Additional information

- If you would like a copy of any of the documents we utilize, please feel free to contact me!
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