

Health Literacy Websites

Suggested by Sue Stableford, Co-founder/Director of the Maine Health Literacy Institute at the University of New England in Portland, Maine

Online Health Literacy Training Programs: Freely Accessible

<http://www.Train.org> This website sponsors a program developed by the Health Resources and Service Administration titled Unified Health Communication: Addressing Health Literacy, Cultural Competency and Limited English Proficiency. There are 5 course units focused on information-sharing. The cultural competency unit is especially helpful and uses short videos to demonstrate ineffective and effective communication techniques. Users must register at the website and then proceed to the course. (5 hrs.)

<http://www.nynj-phtc.org/> This is the website for the New York/New Jersey Public Health Training Center funded by HRSA. You can click on the health literacy training off the home page. Users must register, but there's no fee. This training is partially interactive and skill-based, with opportunity to practice plain language writing skills.

<http://www.advancinghealthliteracy.com/curricula.html> This site is a compilation of training programs submitted to author Andrew Pleasant, Ph.D. Dr. Pleasant tries to keep this list updated. It includes programs designed for clinical care providers.

Websites with Consumer Health Information at Average or Easy Reading Levels, Some in Multiple Languages

<http://www.healthfinder.gov> Portal to access health information created by all federal agencies. A search by topic will usually identify some easy-to-read material.

<http://nnlm.gov/outreach/consumer/multi.html> This is the website of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. It offers a wide array of consumer health information in many languages.

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wtk/index> Series of 12 easy-to-read and excellent one page fact sheets about radiation treatment and how to manage side effects.

<http://www.medlineplus.gov> Federal website that includes media presentations and print information. Sometimes media and print information don't match.

<http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov> Federal website with very easy-to-read and navigate health information. Targeted to seniors but may be useful to others as well.

<http://www.healthyroadsmedia.org> Offers health information about a variety of topics in many languages and in both audio and printed formats.

<http://www.firstfind.info> This is a library site that offers just easy-to-read information about a variety of topics, including health.

<http://www.diabetes.org> Enter the words “toolkit” in the search function to access 50 fact sheets about diabetes and heart disease that are easily reproducible. Most, but not all of the fact sheets, are at average reading levels. Some are more difficult.

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/asthma/resourcebank/>

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/diabetes/resourcebank/>

<http://www.proliteracy.org> Proliteracy’s publishing arm, New Readers Press, publishes a series of books for 3 levels of literacy abilities about health topics and the American healthcare system titled *Health Stories*. The stories are available on CD as well and there is a teacher’s guide. Costs are modest.

<http://www.worlded.org/us/health/lincs> This World Education site has many health resource links for adult education students and teachers as well as others seeking easy-to-read health materials and resources. See especially the resource titled “Family Health and Literacy” at: <http://www.worlded.org/us/health/docs/family>

Guides for Creating Plain Language Materials

Websites with non-copyrighted guides for creating plain language as well as additional information:

<http://www.plainlanguage.gov>

<http://www.plainlanguagenetwork.org>

<http://www.health.gov/communication>

<http://www.centerforplainlanguage.org>

<http://www.hrsa.gov/servicedelivery/language.htm> This website gives directions for creating more readable HIPAA Privacy Notices.

Southern Institute on Children and Families. *The Health Literacy Style Manual*, 2005. Available at: <http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org>

U. S. National Library of Medicine. *How to Write Easy to Read Health Materials*. Available at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/etr.html>

National Institute on Aging: *Making Your Printed Health Materials Senior Friendly*. Available at: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publications/srfriendly.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Simply Put: Tips for creating easy-to-read print materials your audience will want to read and use*. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/simpput.pdf>

National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute. *Clear and Simple: Developing Effective Print Materials for Low-Literate Readers*. Available at: <http://cancer.gov/aboutnci/oc/clear-and-simple/allpages>

National Cancer Institute. *Designing print materials A communications guide for breast cancer screening*. Bethesda MD: NIH, 2007. NIH publication No. 07-6100. Find at:

<http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/icsn/> Order hard copy of this publication here:
<https://cissecure.nci.nih.gov/ncipubs/details.asp?pid=1384>

Rudd R and Anderson J. *The Health Literacy Environment of Hospitals and Health Centers*. Boston: National Center for the Study of Adults Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) and Harvard School of Public Health, 2007. Access here:
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/healthliteracy/curricula.html>

<http://www.proliteracy.org> Website with literacy reports and resources, including easy-to-read health information.

American Medical Association Publications

www.ama-assn.org Use the search function on the main page to find how to view or purchase these excellent tools.

Health Literacy Toolkit with the video *Help Your Patients Understand*.
Publication that makes the business case for health literacy: *Improving Communication – Improving Care. An Ethical Force Program Consensus Report, 2006*.

Softcover publication directed to physicians that documents necessary system-changes. *Health literacy and patient safety: Help patients understand*.

American Academy of Family Pediatrics

http://www.aap.org/bst/showdetl.cfm?&DID=15&Product_ID=4391&CatID=138 Website to purchase: *Plain Language Pediatric Patient Education: Handouts for Common Pediatric Topics* (Book of pages copy-ready as patient handouts.)

A National Listserv for Health and Adult Educational Professionals

This listserv, NIFL-HEALTH is for health educators, literacy providers, clinical providers, researchers, policy developers and others interested in exploring links between health and literacy issues and education. The list has hundreds of members and can be a great source of assistance in identifying resources and/or accessing help with a relevant issue.

To subscribe:

Go to: <http://www.nifl.gov/mailman/listinfo/healthliteracy>

Fill out the form and click on the "Subscribe" button at bottom of the form.