

Health Literacy and Clinical Outcomes Among Immigrants

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Objectives

By the end of this presentation, the participant will be able to:

1. Define health literacy and how a lack of health literacy adversely affects clinical outcomes.
2. Identify ways that nurses can aid in increasing health literacy among vulnerable populations.
3. Recognize the definition of health literacy must be reconsidered.

What is Health Literacy

- Obtaining health information and services
- Communicating with others regarding medical needs and preferences
- Processing the meaning and usefulness of information received
- Understanding options, consequences, and context of information/offered services

(Leung et al., 2014)

Significance of Problem

- Immigrants have:
 - poorer health
 - increased hospital admissions
 - decreased medical regimen compliance
 - decreased use of health resources

(Fernandez-Gutierrez et al., 2018)

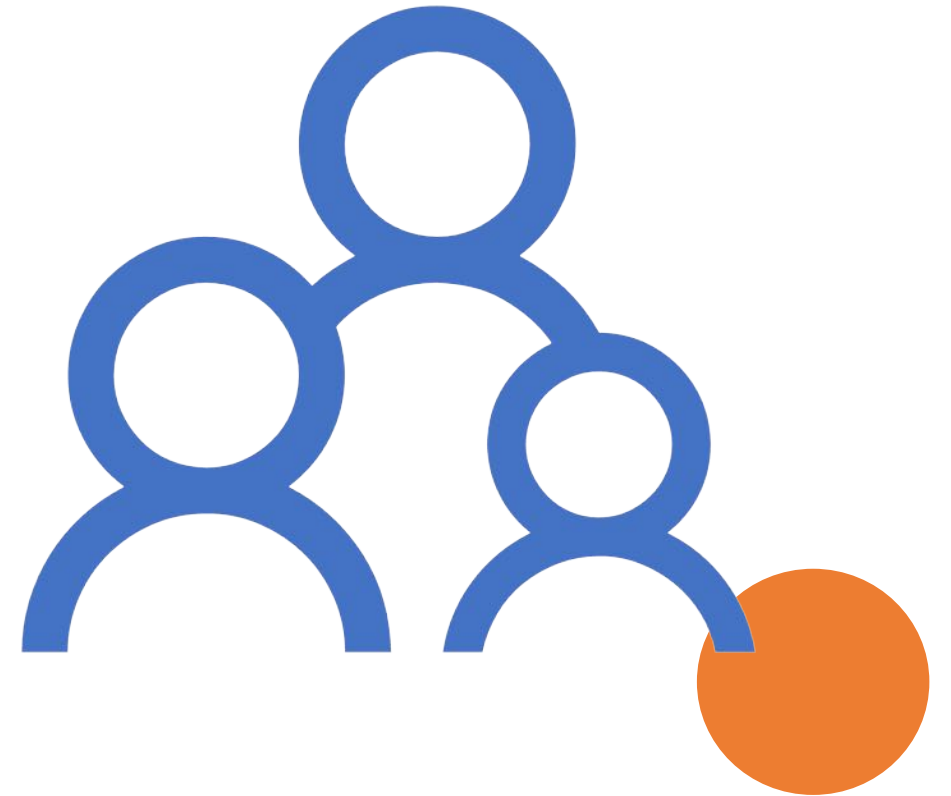
- Immigrants at a great disadvantage when attempting to obtain healthcare

(Mas et al., 2015)

Purpose and PICO

Examine the effect of health literacy on clinical outcomes among immigrants in a primary care environment.

Among Asian and Hispanic immigrants, how does health literacy affect clinical outcomes in a primary care setting?



Evaluation: Summative

Descriptive Statistics Sample Description (n=24)

Demographic Variables	n	%
Country of Birth		
Columbia	2	8.3
Mexico	15	62.5
Nepal	1	4.2
Sri Lanka	2	8.3
USA	4	16.7
Native Language		
English	4	16.7
Spanish	17	70.8
Other	3	12.5
Type of Visit		
Initial	3	12.5
Follow Up	11	45.8
Immigration	10	41.7

Inferential Statistics

Kruskal-Wallis Tests of Education by Self-Reported Health Status, and Literacy

	Mean Rank			<i>h</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
	Less than HS (<i>n</i> = 8)	High School (<i>n</i> = 6)	College (<i>n</i> = 8)			
How often do you have someone help you read hospital materials?	15.06	13.42	6.50	9.308	2	.010*
How often do you have a problem understanding what is told to you about your medical condition?	15.50	10.50	8.25	6.143	2	.046*
How confident are you filling out medical forms by yourself?	9.38	9.00	15.50	6.494	2	.039*

Discussion of Findings/Outcomes

- Individuals whose primary language is other than English are a vulnerable population
- Health literacy deficits lead to misunderstood health information.
- Education level directly relates to overall health.
- Women are more likely to ask for assistance.



Recommendations for Nursing Practice

- Nurses trained to be culturally competent and evaluate health literacy
- Better evaluation of patient understanding of teaching
- Licensed nurses within primary care model
- Redefine the term literate

End of
Presentation



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