

Health Literacy

The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions

patients with low **HEALTH LITERACY...**



Are more likely to visit an
EMERGENCY ROOM



Have more
HOSPITAL STAYS



Are less likely to follow
TREATMENT PLANS



Have higher
MORTALITY RATES

www.cdc.gov/phpr



Health Literacy is important for everyone

At some point in our lives, we all need to be able to find, understand, and use health information and services.

Even people who read well and are comfortable using numbers can face health literacy issues when:

- They aren't familiar with medical terms or how their bodies work.
- They have to interpret statistics and evaluate risks and benefits that affect their health and safety.
- They are diagnosed with a serious illness and are scared and confused.
- They have health conditions that require complicated self-care.
- They are voting on an issue affecting the community's health and relying on unfamiliar technical information.
- They apply these skills either to make sense of health information and services or provide health information and services to others.