



National Library of Medicine

Network of the National Library of Medicine

Additional Resources List

From the CDC

- **Health Literacy** website (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/index.html>): information and tools on health literacy research, practice, and evaluation.
- **CDC Clear Communication Index** (<https://www.cdc.gov/ccindex/index.html>) : a research-based tool to help you develop and assess public communication tools
- **Simply Put** (https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/pdf/simple_put.pdf): A guide for creating easy-to-understand materials. The guide provides practical ways to organize information and use language and visuals. Useful for creating fact sheets, FAQ's, brochures, booklets, pamphlets, and other materials, including web content.

From NIH

- **Clear and Simple** (<https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/clear-communication/clear-simple>) : *Clear & Simple* is designed to assist health communicators in developing audience-appropriate information and communicating effectively with people with limited health literacy skills.
- **Plain Language Check-list For Reviewing Your Document** (<https://www.nih.gov/sites/default/files/institutes/plain-language/nih-plain-language-checklist.pdf>)
- **Know the Science** (<https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/know-science>) : Know the Science is a collection of tools to help people better understand complex scientific topics that relate to health research so that they can be discerning about what they hear and read and can then make well-informed decisions about their health. Includes such tools as: [How To Make Sense of a Scientific Journal Article](#); [The Facts About Health News Stories](#); [How Medications and Supplements Can Interact](#), as well as infographics, videos and links to other resources.

From AHRQ

- **Health Literacy** website (<https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/index.html>): health literacy improvement tools, professional education and guiding frameworks.
- **AHRQ Explicit and Standardized Prescription Medicine Instructions** (<https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/improve/pharmacy/instructions.html>): Tested instructions for pills that follow the Universal Medication Schedule (UMS), which simplifies complex medicine regimens by using standard time periods for

administration (morning, noon, evening, and bedtime). These instructions are also available in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

From Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

- ❑ **Guidelines for Effective Writing** (<https://www.cms.gov/training-education/learn/find-tools-to-help-you-help-others/guidelines-for-effective-writings-for-effective-writing|CMS>): Concise set of 8 categories of tips for effective writing guidelines.
- ❑ **Writing for the Web** (<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/writing-web.pdf>): Tips to help you improve online communications.

From Health.gov

- ❑ **Health Literacy Online** (<https://health.gov/healthliteracyonline/>): research-based guide to design health websites and other digital health information tools.

From Cancer.gov

- ❑ **Making Data Talk: A Workbook** (<https://www.cancer.gov/publications/health-communication/making-data-talk.pdf>): Helps to select and communicate quantitative health data in ways lay audiences can understand.
- ❑ **NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms** (<https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms>): A dictionary of cancer and biomedical terms defined in non-technical language. Terms and definitions are reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel of reviewers and new terms are added each month.

MISC. Health Literacy Resources

- ❑ National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM). **An Introduction to Health Literacy.** (<https://www.nlm.gov/guides/intro-health-literacy>): Overview of health literacy; links to resources, information about available funding for health literacy projects.
- ❑ Center for Health Care Strategies. **Health Literacy Fact Sheets** (<https://www.chcs.org/resource/health-literacy-fact-sheets/>): Series of five downloadable fact sheets that “define health literacy, highlight its important connection to health equity, and outline ways to measure and improve limited health literacy through written communications, patient-provider dialogue, and enhanced organizational practices.”
- ❑ Tufts Medicine. **Health Literacy Tool Shed** (<https://healthliteracy.tuftsmedicine.org/>): an online database of health literacy measures. The site contains information about measures, including their psychometric properties, based on a review of the peer-reviewed literature.

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Health Education Administration. (2012). **Say It Right the First Time: Using Plain Language to Address Health Literacy**. Fourth Edition. (http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/hea/docs/2013.05.29_SayitRightManual_WE_B.pdf)
- Brach, C., Keller, D., Hernandez, L. M., Baur, C., Parker, R., Dreyer, B., ... Schillinger, D. (2012). **Ten attributes of health literate health care organizations**. NAM Perspectives. (https://nam.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/BPH_Ten_HLit_Attributes.pdf)

Dictionaries / Acronyms

Plain Language Medical Dictionary (University of Michigan)

(<https://medicaldictionary.lib.umich.edu/>)

Use the search box to find simpler terms – ex. Myocardial infarction = heart attack.

Clinical Research Glossary (<https://mrctcenter.org/glossary/>)

The Clinical Research Glossary offers easy to understand clinical research definitions. All definitions are developed by the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard (MRCT Center).

Understanding Medical Words Tutorial (National Library of Medicine)

(<https://medlineplus.gov/medwords/medicalwords.html>)

Interactive tutorial on medic

Online Consumer Health Resources

Daily Med (<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/>)

DailyMed provides high quality information about marketed drugs. Drug labeling on this site is the most recent submitted to the FDA and currently in use. The labels are reformatted to make them easier to read.

Merck Manual Home Edition for Patients and Caregivers

(<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home>)

Based on the widely used textbook of medicine, the online edition of the Merck Manual is written in everyday language and contains photographs, audio and video material.

Family Doctor (<https://familydoctor.org/n> from [Family Physicians](https://familydoctor.org/n).)

This Web site is by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), a national medical organization. All of the information on this site is written and reviewed by physicians and patient education professionals.

Mayo Clinic: Patient Care and Health Information. (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/patient-care-and-health-information>)

Comprehensive guides on hundreds of conditions, along with information on tests, procedures, drugs and supplements written by Mayo Clinic staff.

Multilingual / Cultural Resources / Health Equity

Health Information Translations (<https://www.healthinfotranslations.org/>)

Provides plain language health education resources for health care professionals and others working in communities with limited English proficient populations. The website is a collaboration of health education specialists from the four health systems in Central Ohio.

MedlinePlus Health Information in Multiple Languages

(<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/languages.html>)

Information in over 40 languages from the National Library of Medicine's premier consumer health website MedlinePlus.

NIH Spanish Health Information Portal (<https://salud.nih.gov/s Nacionales de Salud |>)

NIH health information website in Spanish

Toolkit for Written Translation

(https://mn.gov/admin/assets/TranslationToolkit%20MDH%202019_tcm36-430963.pdf)

Minnesota Department of Health resources and best practices to consider when having materials translated into other languages.

Communication Styles (<https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/assets/pdfs/resource-library/communication-styles.pdf>)

From ThinkCulturalHealth.gov. A table that outlines different aspects of communication styles and how they tend to vary across cultures.

Inclusive Language & Writing Guide. 2nd ed. (https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/health_equity_inclusive_language_writing_guide.pdf).

American Cancer Society.

This guide provides language guidance on subject matter related to health equity including social determinants of health, race, ethnicity, and national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability status. It includes introductions to each topic as well as terminology to avoid and suggested replacements, real-life examples, and references for further reading.