



SIXTH HEALTH DISPARITIES CONFERENCE
IMPROVING MEDICAL EFFECTIVENESS AND HEALTH OUTCOMES TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIONS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA MARCH 7-9, 2013

General Session IV
**Health Literacy & Medical Effectiveness:
Complex Information
and Treatment Decisions**



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**At the completion of this activity,
participants will be able to:**

Describe the synergistic relationship of cultural competency and health literacy and their efforts to deliver higher quality care.



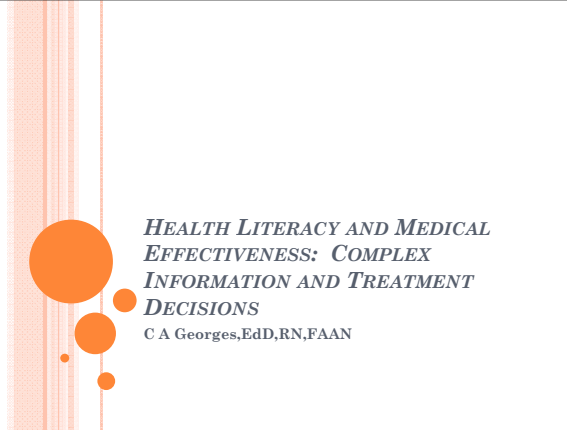
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Kathleen B. Kennedy, PharmD
OPENING REMARKS



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C. Alicia Georges, RN, EdD, FAAN
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION



*HEALTH LITERACY AND MEDICAL
EFFECTIVENESS: COMPLEX
INFORMATION AND TREATMENT
DECISIONS*
C A Georges, EdD, RN, FAAN

OBJECTIVES

- Describe the synergistic relationship of cultural competency and health literacy and their efforts to deliver higher quality care.
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HEALTH LITERACY TOOLS

- Word recognition tests and reading comprehension tests—
- The Rapid Estimate of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM, Davis et al., 1993) and Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (TOFHLA, Parker et al., 1995)
- Developed specifically to measure patients' health literacy skills

REALM

- Medical-word recognition and pronunciation test comprising 66 medical terms,
- Arranged in order of complexity by the number of syllables and pronunciation difficulty
- Starts with simple one-syllable words (eg, pill, eye)
- Ends with multisyllable words (eg, antibiotics, potassium)

REALM SCORING

- 0 (no words pronounced correctly) to 66 (all words pronounced correctly.)
- The score assigns health literacy skills into 4 categories of grade-equivalent reading level
- 0–18 (3rd grade),
- 19–44 (4th to 6th grade),
- 45–60 (7th to 8th grade)
- 61–66 (9th grade)

TEST OF FUNCTIONAL HEALTH LITERACY IN ADULTS (TOFHLA)

- Uses real-to-life health care materials
- Assesses numeracy and reading comprehension
- It has a total of 67 items.
- The numeracy scale, used to measure the ability to read and understand numbers,
- The reading comprehension scale, used to measure the patient's ability to read and understand health care-related materials

TEST OF FUNCTIONAL HEALTH LITERACY IN ADULTS (TOFHLA)

- Uses Cloze procedure, a technique that presents the patient with reading passages that are missing every fifth to seventh word; the patient must then select the appropriate missing word from a list of four possible answers. Only one choice is correct with regard to grammar or the context of the sentence.

TOOLS

- Neither the REALM or TOFHLA capture the complexity of the construct of health literacy. They are both indicators of reading skills (word recognition or reading comprehension and numeracy), rather than measures of the full range of skills needed for health literacy



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Questions & Answers



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Closing Remarks