

Health Literacy: Stepping Stones to Understanding

Poor Literacy Dayton, Ohio

62% read at the 8th grade and below, 31% of those at the 5th grade and below

Decreased Patient and Provider Satisfaction

Increased Health Care Costs

Decreased Patient Safety

Poor Health Outcomes

Step 1: Learning about Health Literacy and its Impact on Healthcare

The Ohio State University Health Literacy Institute, October 1-3, 2001.

Step 2: Beginning to Spread the News about Health Literacy

One hour RN Inservices presenting an overview of health literacy given to:

- All new RN orientees on a bi-weekly basis.
- Unit-based inservices, as requested.

Step 3: Equipping the Nurses with the Skills to Address the Challenges of Health Literacy

Three hour workshop:

- Overview of health literacy.
- How to talk to your patients in plain language.
- How to write easy-to-read materials.

Step 4: Expanding the Scope—Educating the Community

Wright State University
 - Health Sciences Librarians
 Dayton Area Public Librarians
 Dayton Area Health Education Center
 Ohio Health Sciences Library Association

Step 5: Making Progress...

At Miami Valley Hospital, 2,633 out of 2,636 employees completed an online education module on health literacy in 2006.

In addition, Health Literacy training was given to:

- Dietetic Interns
- Internal Medicine Residents
- Orthopedic Residents



 **Miami Valley Hospital**
Premier Health Partners

One Wyoming Street
Dayton, Ohio 45409

www.miamivalleyhospital.com

Craig Memorial Library

Janet Petty, MLIS, AHIP
 Shirley Sebald-Kinder, MLS, AHIP
 Leslie Lindsey, MLIS

Improved Patient Safety

Improved Patient Care

Improved Health Outcomes

You have hypertension and need to take this medication twice a day.

Why does she think I'm hyper?
 Well, maybe if I take both medications in the morning I will be less hyper.

Your high blood pressure is coming down. Keep taking one water pill in the morning and one before you go to bed.

I feel better than I have in a long time!