

# Provider quiz on Health Literacy

1. Which of the following is the strongest predictor of a persons health status?  
A) Age B) Income C) Literacy skills D) Education level
  2. Who is NOT at risk for low health literacy?  
A) Ethnic minorities B) Those with low income and education levels  
C) Those with high income and education D) None of the above
  3. Health literacy refers only to the ability to read and understand written information.  
A) True B) False
  4. What percentage of patients forgets what the doctor told them as soon as they leave the office?  
A) 80% B) 50% C) 10% D) Less than 10%
  5. How many adult Americans have difficulty reading and understanding health information?  
A) 10 % B) 50%  
C) 75% D) 0%
  6. Which of the following are coping mechanisms used by patients with low health literacy?  
A. Say they forgot their eyeglasses to avoid filling out forms or questionnaires.  
B. Laugh about being forgetful when asked about their medical condition or treatments.  
C. Nod politely when the doctor speaks and don't ask any questions.  
D. All of the above.
  7. Which of these statements about people with low health literacy is FALSE?  
A. They are less likely to comply with prescribed treatment and self-care regimens.  
B. They fail to seek preventive care.  
C. They remain in the hospital almost 2 days longer than adults with higher literacy.  
D. None of the above.
  8. Health literacy is an issue only for those providers treating ethnic minorities  
A) True B) False
  9. The average adult reading level in the United States is:  
A) 10th grade or above B) 8th- 9th grade C) 6th- 7th grade D) 3rd- 4th grade
  10. Encouraging patients to ask more questions to check understanding during a visit will increase the overall length of their visit.  
A) True B) False
-

# **Provider quiz on Health Literacy**

## **Answers:**

1. C: Studies show that limited literacy skills are a stronger predictor of health status than age, income, race, education or income.
  
2. D: Everyone in the USA is susceptible regardless of age, race, education or income
  
3. B: Health literacy is broader than general literacy. It also includes numeric and navigational skills.
  
4. A: Up to 80% of patients forget what their doctor tells them as soon as they leave the office. 50% remember incorrectly.
  
5. B: 50% Nearly half of all Americans (90 million people) have trouble understanding and using health information.
  
6. D: People with low health literacy are often embarrassed or ashamed to admit difficulties. They use coping mechanisms.
  
7. D: Low health literacy has a negative impact on compliance, clinical outcomes and healthcare costs.
  
8. B: Although ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by low literacy, the majority of those with low literacy skills in the USA are white, native born Americans.
  
9. B: The average reading level is 8th to 9th grade. However, 1 in 5 adults read at or below the 5th grade reading level.
  
10. B: On average, doctors allow patients to speak for 22 seconds before taking the lead. Research shows that if allowed to speak freely, the average patient would initially speak for less than 2 minutes.