Health Literacy Assessment

The participants at the facility fit most of the risk factors for health literacy concerns even without the diagnoses of dementia i.e. >65 years old, male gender, persons with Medicare/Medicaid. The facility consists of CNAs, assistants, and RNS with a variety of educational backgrounds. Therefore, I decided that it was vital to perform a health literacy assessment for the exercise hand-out that the participants will use, the PowerPoint presentation for the staff, and the fall safety caregiver brochure for the caregivers.

I used the SMOG calculator to assess each item. The initial slides of the PowerPoint presentation were deemed to be at a college graduate level. I was eventually able to get the reading level down to a twelfth grade reading level. I had difficulty getting it lower than that possibly due to some of the terminology i.e. Otago. I also removed a slide that discussed how falls related to the literature and incorporated that information a different way into other slides.

The exercise handout was at a second grade reading level when assessed by the SMOG calculator. I wanted the exercise handout instructions to be as simple as possible. My aim was to have the instructions below a fourth grade reading level since this handout will be used for the participants who already at risk for health literacy concerns in addition to their cognitive impairments.

The caregiver brochure had a third grade reading level and didn’t need any alterations.