Health Literacy Voicethreads

I have completed the Health Literacy training and have addressed Health Literacy by viewing the relevant Voicethreads and incorporating concepts into the planning of my project. Furthermore, I have incorporated learned concepted in the development of my project. In order to incorporate Health Literacy concepts into my project, I have written all patient/family materials in a way that considers low levels of literacy in order to ensure patient understanding. All patient/family materials have been written using patient-friendly concepts including the use of simple wording, short sentences, 4-6th grade level reading material, focus on key points, and emphasis on patient concerns and actions. All of the materials for this project have been developed to be easy to read and include bullet points where possible. All of the materials for this project will be revised multiple times using the feedback of multiple clinicians and advisors in order to ensure that Health Literacy is properly addressed and the materials will be effective.

Plainlanguage.gov Guidelines

All patient/family materials have been revised to follow the suggestions and guidelines of plainlanguage.gov including being designed for reading by having useful headings to help people skim and scan the page, using lists to break up the text and outline steps in a process, using tables to make complex material easier to understand, and writing short sentences and short sections to break up information into manageable chunks. Additionally, a serif font for the body text was used, fonts were not mixed within the body, and a sans serif font was used for the headings. The material has been made concise by reducing propositions, omitting redundant words, cutting excess modifiers, and avoiding doublets and triplets.

Preliminary Analysis of Materials

I have also done a preliminary analysis of the content for all patient/family materials in my project, including a Community Resource Patient/Family Handout Template. This material was then revised based on the assessment of health literacy. Now, this material includes only simple messaging and highly relevant content. Information presented is as minimal as possible, with bullet points used where possible. The content is organized in a chart format in order to enhance ease of information consumption. This material is written in appropriate language literacy level, but cannot be assessed by grade level because it is in bullet point chart format rather than sentence format, which is used to assess grade level on the Fry Graph scale. Since the material is formatted in bullet points with one to four simple words per bullet, it is well within a 4-6th grade reading level needed for patient/family understanding.

The Community Resource Patient/Family Handout Template was scored on The Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool (PEMAT) for Printable Materials. (<https://www.ahrq.gov/ncepcr/tools/self-mgmt/pemat3.html>) The product scored 100% for Understandability.

The following assessment tools were studied to ensure readability of patient/family materials based on scoring guidelines:

* The Flesch Grade Level Readability Formula –

<https://www.readabilityformulas.com/flesch-grade-level-readability-formula.php>

* The Fry Graph Readability Formula –

<https://www.readabilityformulas.com/fry-graph-readability-formula.php>

* The Gunning Fog Readability Formula –

<https://www.readabilityformulas.com/gunning-fog-readability-formula.php>

* The New Dale Chall Readability Formula –

<https://www.readabilityformulas.com/new-dale-chall-readability-formula.php>

* The Smog Readability Formula –

<https://www.readabilityformulas.com/smog-readability-formula.php>

The following tools were used as dictionaries to help find word replacements to make patient/family materials easier to read:

* University of Michigan Plain Language Medical Dictionary –

<https://www.lib.umich.edu/plain-language-dictionary>

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Everyday Words for Public Health Communication –

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthcommunication/everydaywords/>

* United Health Group Just Plain Clear Glossary –

<http://www.justplainclear.com/en>