Health Literacy Interventions: Challenges from the Field

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Components of Literacy

- Literacy
  - Cultural and Conceptual Knowledge
  - Oral Literacy
  - Print Literacy
  - Listening
  - Speaking
  - Writing
  - Reading
  - Numeracy

IOM, Health Literacy, 2004
Interventions

• Attempt to improve literacy skills of patients or family members
  – Participation in adult basic education
  – Skills training

• Provide accommodations
  – Train providers, lay persons or others in improved communication skills
  – Develop literacy sensitive toolkits
  – Develop informatics approaches to improve health communication and self-care support
Challenges

• Study Design
• IRB approval
• Recruitment of low literacy participants
• Design of interventions that are literacy sensitive
• Intervention fidelity
• Measurement in patients with low literacy
• Analysis of findings
• Dissemination, implementation and scalability of results
Speakers

• Urmimala Sarkar MD MPH
  – IRB and recruitment issues
• H. Shonna Yin MD MS
  – Design of intervention materials and fidelity
• Anjali Pandit, MPH, MS
  – Implementation in real world settings
• Sunil Kripalani MD MSc
  – Analytic Challenges
Format

• 15 minute presentation per speaker
• Content focused questions as needed after each speaker
• 20 minute general discussion at the end