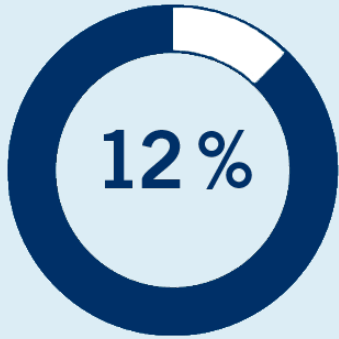


Why Focus on Health Literacy?

What Providers Need to Know About Health Literacy

Only 12% of U.S. adults have proficient health literacy skills.



88%

of U.S. adults find it difficult to handle the literacy-related tasks needed to manage their health



Up to 80%

of medical information is forgotten immediately



50%

of medical information retained is not correct

Patients with low health literacy skills are:



1.7 times more likely to be hospitalized in a preventable visit



1.7 times more likely to be readmitted to the ER



1.4 times more likely to use emergency services



1.7 times more likely to be readmitted to the hospital within 30 days

After agreeing to or receiving care:



Up to 45%

of patients are unable to recall the major risks of surgery



44%

of patients do not know the exact nature of their operation.

How can patients comply if they don't understand?

To learn more about health literacy or to have a document reviewed at no cost, contact learningcenter@mainehealth.org

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