PIII-31: Using the evidence to create an education tool for the low literacy patient

Author List:
Presenting Author: Karen Stonecypher
Additional Author: Pamela Willson

Presenting Author: Karen Stonecypher
Address: 2002 Holcombe Blvd
Houston, Texas 77030
United States
Ph: 713-791-1414, 5036
Fax:
Email: kcypher@hotmail.com
Institution: Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Additional Author: Pamela Willson
Address: 11011 Richmond Avenue, Suite 450
Houston, Texas 77042
United States
Ph: (800) 950-2728, 6916
Fax:
Email: pa.willson@elsevier.com
Institution: Elsevier

Presentation Preference: Student poster submission

Abstract Categories:
Research Interest Groups (RIGs): Evidence-based Practice/Research

Abstract:
Introduction: The National Assessment of Adult Literacy found 43% of adults are functionally illiterate. Adults 65 years of age and older comprise 59% of this population. Creating education materials supported by evidence-based research for low-literacy design was the project foundation.

Method(s): An interdisciplinary team of experts in nursing, social work, therapies (physical, occupational, recreational, and kinesiology), speech, and nutrition collaborated to develop an educational tool for patients who had experienced a stroke and their families.

Results: The Veteran's Self-Management Guide to Stroke Prevention defined stroke types, factors related to stroke risks and methods for stroke risk factor reduction, self-management techniques to address healthy behavior changes, and home safety issues. Editing addressed clarity of the message, readability level, font type and size, chart illustration styles, and pertinent targeted messaging. A national celebrity developed audience specific illustrations utilized
throughout the book. National Stroke Association collaboration guided the didactic pedagogical content. Evidence-based research findings from the Joint Commission were incorporated within the information design to support a Stroke Center of Excellence. Evaluation data was collected utilizing a five-point Likert scale questionnaire, by patients and caregivers. Sixteen predominantly male (n=94%) Caucasian (47%) patients had a mean age of 59 years. The fourteen caregivers who participated were mostly the patient’s spouses. Overall, 95% of the patients and 94% of the caregivers found the guide to be an “excellent” or “very good” resource.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Compilation of the information into one patient education booklet provided a central patient resource with guidelines and helpful hints that could be used consistently by the patient’s healthcare team. The national celebrity’s work provided a thematic thread that appealed to this veteran low literacy population. Implication for Nursing: Patient education is a team project. Writing an educational tool as a team endeavor incorporates multiple disciplines foci that promote greater patient understanding. Evidence-based low literacy educational tools are essential to health care compliance.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

**Financial Disclosure:**
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

**Non-Exclusive License:**

**Submitted by:**
kcypfer@hotmail.com