Resources for Health Literacy

Some articles:

A mismatch between population health literacy and the complexity of health information: an observational study
This study found that levels of low health literacy in England mirror those found in other industrialised countries, with a mismatch between the complexity of health materials and the skills of the English adult working-age population. Those most in need of health information have the least access to it.
https://bjgp.org/content/65/635/e379

Assessment Tools for Health Literacy among the General Population: A Systematic Review (2018)
This review summarizes the findings of published tools for assessing health literacy among the general population to provide a reference for establishing health literacy assessment tools in the future.
https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/15/8/1711

COVID-19: health literacy is an underestimated problem
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(20)30086-4/fulltext

Health literacy in children with asthma: A systematic review
Health literacy (HL) is a key factor influencing asthma management outcomes and has primarily been focused on adult patients. The relationship between children's HL and asthma is unclear, and several research gaps are present in the direct assessment of children's HL. In this study, a systematic review of the relevant literature was conducted to elucidate the relationship between HL and asthma among children
https://www.pediatr-neonatol.com/article/S1875-9572(17)30188-2/fulltext

Health Literacy and Adherence to Medical Treatment in Chronic and Acute Illness: A Meta-Analysis
This study assessed the average effect sizes in studies of: (1) the correlation between patient health literacy and both medication and non-medication adherence, and (2) the efficacy of health literacy interventions on improving health literacy and treatment adherence. Its findings demonstrate the importance of health literacy and the efficacy of health literacy interventions especially among more vulnerable patient groups.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4912447/

Low Health Literacy and Evaluation of Online Health Information: A Systematic Review of the Literature
The main aim of this study was to review existing evidence on the association between low health literacy and (1) people's ability to evaluate online health information, (2) perceived quality of online health information, (3) trust in online health information, and (4) use of evaluation criteria for online health information.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4468598/

The Impact of Health Literacy Environment on Patient Stress: A Systematic Review
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32448284/

The influence of health literacy on the timely diagnosis of symptomatic cancer: A systematic review
Low health literacy has been associated with poor cancer screening uptake, difficulty in making treatment choices and reduced quality of life following a cancer diagnosis. This systematic review aimed to evaluate the influence of health literacy on the timely diagnosis of symptomatic cancer.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6559266/pdf/ECC-28-na.pdf

Other resources

Digital health literacy: how new skills can help improve health, equity and sustainability (EuroHealthNet 2019)
The effective and equitable digital transformation of health systems could have many benefits. People who are digitally health literate – those that can gain and use knowledge from electronic sources to solve a health problem – are more able to manage personal health and care issues. Better prevention models can be developed, and healthy behaviours supported.
https://eurohealthnet.eu/sites/eurohealthnet.eu/files/publications/PP_Digital%20Health%20Literacy_LR.pdf

Digital inclusion guide for health and social care. NHS Digital Revised version July 2019
A guide to help healthcare providers, commissioners, and designers ensure that services delivered digitally are as inclusive as possible, meeting the needs of all sections of the population.
https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/digital-inclusion

Health literacy The solid facts (World Health Organization 2013)
http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/190655/e96854.pdf

Health Literacy – the agenda we cannot afford to ignore (2015)
This briefing provides an overview of the important agenda of health literacy and outlines the extent of the level of need and its economic impact. It concludes with four key priority policy actions.
http://www.healthliteracyplace.org.uk/media/1239/hl-and-hi-ucl.pdf

The Health Literacy Place (NHS Scotland)
A website with many useful resources for Health Literacy including a wide range of tools which can support your health literacy practice and an overview of some of the main techniques as well as raining materials. provides links to further resources and guidance.
http://www.healthliteracyplace.org.uk/

Readability
Readbility tools can show if the language might be too complex for many people. Use a readability tool to prioritise content.
https://service-manual.nhs.uk/content/health-literacy/use-a-readability-tool-to-prioritise-content

Patient Information Forum
PIF provides expert guidance on the production of high-quality health information and supports an improved healthcare experience for patients and the public. The PIF TICK is the UK-wide Quality Mark for Health Information; it shows an organisation's health information has been gone through a professional and robust production process.
https://pifonline.org.uk/pif-tick/

The Information Standard: Workshop Understanding Health Literacy – best practice in developing and testing health and care information (NHS England 2017)
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/the-information-standard-workshop-understanding-health-literacy-best-practice-in-developing-and-testing-health-and-care-information/

Contact us for help with more resources:

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