



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

F O U N D A T I O N

Abstract of Study Funded with a Research Stimulation Grant in 2011

Evaluation of a 30-second Screen for Health Literacy (G1107RS)

Principal Investigator: Robert Post, MD

Abstract

Background: Inadequate health literacy is strongly associated with poorly controlled chronic conditions and increased rate of hospitalizations. Nearly half of adults in the United States have been reported to have trouble interpreting medical information. Many researchers have tried to create health literacy assessments that can measure a patient's functional health literacy in a short format, even as little as one question. However, some may be hesitant to determine a patient's health literacy with only one question, but at the same time, do not want to spend a lot of time testing for health literacy.

Objective: To test a three question, 30-second assessment of health literacy for validity compared to the current written standard of the S-TOFHLA.

Design: Cross-sectional survey.

Setting: Two family medicine centers.

Participants: 284 adults over the age of 18 who can read and understand English and do not have a significant cognitive or visual impairment.

Outcome Measures: Strength of internal consistency of the 30-second screening test, the correlation between the score on the 30-second screening test and the score on the S-TOFHLA, cutoff values for identifying inadequate health literacy on the 30-second screening test.

Anticipated results: Validation of the 30-second screening test as a valid health literacy assessment with specific cutoff values for inadequate health literacy.

Anticipated Conclusions: The project will be submitted for publication in a Family Medicine or other major general medicine journal as well as a presentation at the NAPCRG or STFM annual conferences.