

Resources – Communicating with Healthcare Providers

MedlinePlus

<http://medlineplus.gov> (in English and Spanish)

- **Relevant Health Topic Pages** (Click on Health Topics, then use the A-to-Z alphabetical list to go to each page)
 - Health Literacy
 - Talking With Your Doctor
 - Patient Safety
 - Health System
 - Understanding Medical Research
 - Evaluating Health Information

Ask Me 3

From the National Patient Safety Foundation, this site provides a simple strategy for better patient/doctor communications. Separate sections are produced for patients and healthcare providers.

www.askme3.org

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ provides excellent resources to help consumers and patients be an active participant in their own healthcare. The Consumer section of the website includes many resources on patient safety, preparing for surgery and other relevant topics.

<http://ahrq.gov/consumer/>

The Questions Are the Answer campaign from AHRQ is a fun and informational program to help patients ask the right questions of their healthcare providers, with the goal of better health outcomes.

<http://ahrq.gov/questionsaretheanswer>

KidsHealth

KidsHealth from the Nemours Foundation includes health information for kids, teens and parents, including information on talking with your child's doctor.

<http://kidshealth.org>

http://kidshealth.org/parent/general/sick/talk_doctor.html

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

In a recent survey of adults age 50+, two out of three reported using some form of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), yet only one in three discussed it with their doctors. The resource "Time to Talk" discusses the importance of discussing CAM therapies with healthcare providers.

<http://nccam.nih.gov>

<http://nccam.nih.gov/timetotalk/>

NIHSeniorHealth

NIHSeniorHealth provides a topic called Talking with your Doctor, which includes information of interest to older adults.

<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/talkingwithyourdoctor/toc.html>

Helping Older Adults Search for Health Information Online: A Toolkit for Trainers is an excellent training resource developed by the National Institute on Aging. The Toolkit provides free, easy-to-use training materials to help older adults find reliable, up-to-date online health information on their own. Trainers can use the toolkit with beginning and intermediate students of the Web.

<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/toolkit/>

National Institutes on Aging

NIA produces many excellent publications, including topics such as Safety and Your Medical Care. Most are available for free, either as a download or by ordering a print copy. For the full list:

<http://nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publications/>

The 48-page booklet "Talking With Your Doctor" is an excellent guide for older adults.

<http://nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publications/TalkingWithYourDoctor/>

Spanish version:

<http://niapublications.org/pubs/conversando/index.asp>

American Medical Association Foundation Videos

"Low health literacy: You can't tell by looking," features actual physicians and office staff interacting with real patients challenged by low health literacy. The 2007 video, "Health literacy and patient safety: Help patients understand," gives more detailed techniques and specific steps for physicians and their staff on helping patients with limited health literacy.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/8035.html>

For Further Reading

Institute of Medicine. Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion, Nielson-Bohman, Lynn, et al, editors. Washington, D.C. 2004.