

# How do I know if a material is **health literate**?

## A health literate material...

- Uses plain language
- Is written at or below a 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level
- Sticks to no more than 3 main messages
- Uses headings, bullets, or boxes to break up messages into sections
- Has a clear title that clearly conveys the topic of the material
- Contains simple images and natural looking pictures
- Has a lot of white space
- Uses serif font that is at least size 12

**Use with patients!**

## A non-health literate material...

- Uses medical jargon
- Contains complex words or passive language
- Has more than 3 main messages
- Has lot of text or long paragraphs
- Contains a title that does not clearly convey the topic of the material
- Has no pictures or images, contains pictures irrelevant to the content, or has unnatural looking pictures
- Has complicated graphs or tables
- Uses fonts that are less than size 12 or otherwise difficult to read

**Do not use with patients!**

**At CHN, we only use health literate materials.**

We can work with your organization to help you use the best materials for your patients. Please email [healthliteracy@chnnyc.org](mailto:healthliteracy@chnnyc.org) for more information.

