How do I know if a material is health literate?

A health literate material...
- Uses plain language
- Is written at or below a 6th 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 for more information.