

# HEALTH LITERACY ASSESSMENT

Prepared by Kathryn Sexson, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

## Evaluating for Readability

Both endorsed by National Institutes of Health

- Simple Measurement of Gobbledygook (SMOG) – Overall reading score
- Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease for assessment at the 6th grade level – Evaluates difficulty of a specific passage

**The Newest Vital Sign (NVS) is one of the most broadly accepted caregiver health literacy assessment screening tools. It correlates with the Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults.**

- Reliable (Cronbach's alpha 0.76 in English, 0.69 in Spanish) and valid (evaluated across age, health conditions, racial/ethnic groups)
  - Published in the *Annals of Family Medicine* (12/05): doi: [10.1370/afm.405](https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.405) (correction to the caption in Figure 2 can be found at doi: [10.1370/afm.506](https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.506))
  - Validated across caregiving populations (parents of young children, older adults, various racial/ethnic groups, and across a wide variety of health conditions)
- Test-retest reliability in-person and remote: doi: [10.1016/j.pec.2018.11.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2018.11.016)
- Available in both English and Spanish; Also translated and tested in a traditional Chinese version (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bj.2018.07.001>)
- 3 minutes to administer
- Toolkit  
[https://cdn.pfizer.com/pfizercom/health/2016\\_nvs\\_flipbook\\_english\\_final.pdf](https://cdn.pfizer.com/pfizercom/health/2016_nvs_flipbook_english_final.pdf)

Systematic Scoping Review: Identifies and evaluates multiple tools.

- Yuen E Y N, Knight T, Ricciardelli L A, Burney S. Health literacy of caregivers of adult care recipients: a systematic scoping review. *Health & Social Care in the Community*. 2016;26(2):e191-e206.  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/hsc.12368>