

Health Literacy: Teaching Clear Communication in Geriatrics and Gerontology

In January 2009, the California Geriatric Education Center (GCEC) offered a course in *Health Literacy: Teaching Clear Communication in Geriatrics and Gerontology*. The purpose of the two day course was to improve health literacy teaching skills for educators and to provide resource materials so that health literacy can be incorporated into professional education curriculum. To facilitate sharing of the wealth of teaching and resource materials presented by CGEC, the CalSWEC Aging Initiative is offering a link to the materials available for instructor use.

The materials provided will assist educators to:

- Understand and teach health literacy and its significance for older adults to health professional students, trainees, and peers.
- Teach appropriate use of translators and interpreters.
- Teach how to create and/or identify clear education materials for older adults.
- Teach and demonstrate clear communication skills appropriate for older adults.

For downloadable geriatric and gerontological health literacy resource information made available by CGEC please go to:

<http://www.geronet.ucla.edu/centers/cgec/healthliteracy.htm>

In 2006, California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) **Aging Competencies** were adopted by accredited California graduate schools of social work. Competencies related to health literacy have been identified by Janet C. Frank, DrPH as a starting point for integrating geriatric social work competencies with health literacy. Click [here](#) to view identified health literacy competencies. Other Aging Competencies may also apply. Click [here](#) a complete set of the CalSWEC Aging Competencies.

The Partnership for Clear Health Communication at the National Patient Safety Foundation offers **Health Literacy: Statistics at-a-Glance**. Click [here](#) to download this document. For additional information visit their website at www.npsf.org/pchc.

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