

Health Literacy in Dentistry Action Plan 2010-2015

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ADA American Dental Association®

Presenter Disclosure

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The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

1. Employee, American Dental Association

Health Literacy in Dentistry: Definition

“...the degree to which individuals have the capacity to **obtain, process** and **understand** basic health information and services needed to **make appropriate oral health decisions.**” ^{1, 2, 3}

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2000)

² NIDCR Working Group on Functional Oral Health Literacy (2004)

² ADA House of Delegates (2006)

Health Literacy in Dentistry: Definition

“The ability to **access, understand, appraise** and **communicate** information to engage with the demands of health contexts to promote health.” ¹

¹ Rootman et al., 2005

HL in Dentistry Action Plan: Overview

- ADA Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations (CAPIR) in cooperation with its ad hoc advisory committee
- 2010-2015
- Set of principles, goals and strategies
- NOT a “to do list” *per se*
- Flexible and dynamic, not static

National Advisory Committee on HL in Dentistry

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HL in Dentistry Action Plan: Focus Areas

1. TRAINING AND EDUCATION (Change Perceptions of Oral Health)
2. ADVOCACY (Overcome Barriers by Replicating Effective Programs)
3. RESEARCH (Build the Science Base and Accelerate Science Transfer)
4. DENTAL PRACTICE (Oral Health Workforce Diversity, Capacity, and Flexibility)
5. BUILD AND MAINTAIN COALITIONS (Increase Collaborations)

HL in Dentistry Action Plan: Education Goal

TRAINING AND EDUCATION: Increase the understanding of health literacy in relation to oral health and quality of life.

HL in Dentistry Action Plan: Advocacy Goal

ADVOCACY: Persuade legislators, regulators and other key decision makers that health literacy is a priority public health concern, leading to increased funding and other practical support for health literacy related education, research and interventions.

HL in Dentistry Action Plan: Research Goal

RESEARCH: Build the science base and accelerate science transfer related to health literacy in dentistry and in cooperation with other health disciplines.

HL in Dentistry Action Plan: Practice Goal

DENTAL PRACTICE: Improve communication and patient understanding in dental practice.

HL in Dentistry Action Plan: Collaboration Goal

BUILD AND MAINTAIN COALITIONS:

Establish health literacy as a priority issue for dental and other health related organizations.

THANK YOU!



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