

The Use of Standardized Patients to Teach Low-literacy Communication Skills

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Objective: To describe methods for incorporating standardized patients into health literacy training programs. **Methods:** We discuss aspects of program development that are relatively unique to this educational context. **Results:** Individuals were recruited to play the role of an average adult with limited health literacy. Methods of recruitment, training, and scenario development are discussed in detail. **Conclusions:** Standard-

ized patients can be valuable partners for teaching about low-literacy communication skills. Because of shared experiences, both actors and nonactors can effectively play a character with low health literacy.

Key words: physician-patient communication, health literacy, standardized patients, medical education

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