

# Teaching Medical Students About Health Literacy: 2 Chicago Initiatives

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**Objective:** To develop medical students' skills in interacting with individuals who have limited health literacy. **Methods:** Described are 2 novel approaches to health literacy curriculum design. Efforts at both schools have been implemented to improve medical student awareness of health literacy, as well as specific skills in clear communication and strategies that ensure patient understanding. **Results:** Preliminary data from one school sug-

gest an increase in use of health literacy behaviors. Curriculum development at both schools is ongoing. **Conclusion:** The ultimate goal of these curricula is for students to develop the core skills necessary for effective communication with all patients.

**Key words:** communication skills, curriculum, health literacy, medical education

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