

Integrating Literacy, Culture, and Language to Improve Health Care Quality for Diverse Populations

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Objective: To understand the interrelationship of literacy, culture, and language and the importance of addressing their intersection. **Methods:** Health literacy, cultural competence, and linguistic competence strategies to quality improvement were analyzed. **Results:** Strategies to improve health literacy for low-literate individuals are distinct from strategies for culturally diverse and individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). The lack of integration results in health care that is unre-

sponsive to some vulnerable groups' needs. A vision for integrated care is presented. **Conclusion:** Clinicians, the health care team, and health care organizations have important roles to play in addressing challenges related to literacy, culture, and language.

Key words: communication, cultural competence, health literacy, language barriers, literacy, linguistic competence, minority health, quality improvement

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