

# How to Select or Create Materials Your Patients Can Actually Understand

Linda S. Gottfredson, PhD  
University of Delaware

Kathy Stroh, MS, RD, LDN, CDE  
Westside Family Healthcare  
Wilmington, DE

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## Linda S. Gottfredson, PhD

Professor Emeritus

University of Delaware, School of Education

Co-Author of AADE Practice Advisory “Special Considerations in the Management and Education of Older Persons with Diabetes”



## Kathy Stroh

MS, RD, LDN, CDE

Westside Family Healthcare  
Wilmington, DE

- AADE Public Health Community of Interest Co-Leader
- Co-Author of AADE Practice Advisory “Special Considerations in the Management and Education of Older Persons with Diabetes”
- NDEP Practice Transformation Task Group

# Disclosure to Participants

- Notice of Requirements For Successful Completion
  - Please refer to learning goals and objectives
  - Learners must attend the full activity and complete the evaluation in order to claim continuing education credit/hours
- Conflict of Interest (COI) and Financial Relationship Disclosures:
  - Presenter: Linda Gottfredson, PhD – No COI/Financial Relationship to disclose
  - Presenter: Kathy Stroh, MS, RD, LDN, CDE – No COI/Financial Relationship to disclose
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“As clinicians, what we say does not matter unless our patients are able to understand the information we give them well enough to use it to make good health-care decisions.

Otherwise, we didn’t reach them, and that is the same as if we didn’t treat them.”

Surgeon General Regina Benjamin (2010)

“Two decades of research indicate that much health information is presented in ways that are not understandable by most Americans.

If health professionals want to reach people with information, they must make sure information, products, and services are accessible and understandable to their intended audiences.”

CDC (2014)

# The neglected barrier: Lack of cognitive accessibility

Patients cannot adhere to treatment unless the information we give them is **cognitively accessible**.

So,

- How do we judge that?
- And how can we increase it, particularly for aging and low-literacy patients?

# Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Define *cognitive accessibility* and explain why it is important in diabetes education.
- Identify DSMES materials that are needlessly complex for all patients (have poor *readability*).
- Identify DSMES materials that are inherently complex (even when highly *readable*), and why.
- Select or create DSMES materials that are cognitively accessible to patients, especially those who are cognitively compromised.

# Outline of topics

1. Cognitive accessibility of DSMES information and instruction: What is it?
2. Needless complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and eliminate it
3. Inherent complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and reduce it
4. Examples of reducing complexity in the AADE7™

## National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2017

### Estimates of Diabetes and Its Burden in the United States

#### Background

The *National Diabetes Statistics Report* is a periodic publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that provides updated statistics about diabetes in the United States for a scientific audience. It includes information on prevalence and incidence of diabetes, prediabetes, risk factors for complications, acute and long-term complications, deaths, and costs. These data can help focus efforts to prevent and control diabetes across the United States. This report was previously known as the *National Diabetes Fact Sheet*.

#### Methods

The estimates in this document (unless otherwise noted) were derived from various data systems of CDC, the Indian Health Service (IHS), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the U.S. Census Bureau, and published studies. The estimated percentages and the total number of people with diabetes and prediabetes were derived from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), IHS National Data Warehouse (NDW), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), United States Diabetes Surveillance System (USDSS), and U.S. resident population estimates.

Numbers and rates for acute and long-term complications of diabetes were derived from the National Inpatient Sample (NIS) and National Emergency Department Sample (NEDS), as well as NHIS. Diagnosed diabetes was determined by self-report among survey respondents and by diagnostic codes for American Indians and Alaska Natives who accessed IHS, tribal, or Urban Indian health facilities that submitted data to the IHS NDW.

Both fasting glucose and hemoglobin A1C (A1C) levels were used to derive estimates for undiagnosed diabetes and prediabetes. An alpha level of 0.05 was used when assessing statistical differences between groups.

Most estimates of diabetes in this report do not differentiate between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. However, because type 2 diabetes accounts for



#### Fast Facts on Diabetes

**30.3 million people have diabetes**  
(9.4% of the U.S. population)

#### Diagnosed

**23.1 million people**

#### Undiagnosed

**7.2 million**  
(23.8% of people with diabetes are undiagnosed)


**Table 1c. Age-adjusted prevalence of diagnosed diabetes by race/ethnicity, education level, and sex among adults aged ≥18 years, United States, 2013–2015**

Characteristic	Total Percentage (95% CI)	Men Percentage (95% CI)	Women Percentage (95% CI)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
American Indian/Alaska Native	15.1 (15.0–15.2)	14.9 (14.8–15.0)	15.3 (15.2–15.3)
Asian, non-Hispanic, overall	8.0 (7.3–8.9)	9.0 (7.6–10.5)	7.3 (6.4–8.3)
Asian Indian	11.2 (9.1–13.7)	12.2 (9.1–16.2)	10.0 (7.4–13.3)
Chinese	4.3 (3.2–5.9)	6.2 (4.1–9.1)	2.8 (1.8–4.4)
Filipino	8.9 (7.4–10.8)	9.1 (6.8–11.9)	8.9 (7.1–11.2)
Other Asian	8.5 (7.1–10.0)	8.9 (6.9–11.4)	8.2 (6.5–10.2)
Black, non-Hispanic	12.7 (12.1–13.4)	12.2 (11.3–13.1)	13.2 (12.4–14.0)
Hispanic, overall	12.1 (11.4–12.7)	12.6 (11.6–13.5)	11.7 (10.9–12.5)
Central/South American	8.5 (7.3–10.0)	8.5 (6.6–10.8)	8.8 (7.2–10.7)
Cuban	9.0 (7.1–11.4)	11.6 (8.0–16.5)	5.9 (3.7–9.3)
Mexican	13.8 (13.0–14.8)	14.2 (12.9–15.7)	13.5 (12.5–14.7)
Puerto Rican	12.0 (10.5–13.7)	12.2 (10.0–14.9)	11.8 (9.8–14.1)
White, non-Hispanic	7.4 (7.2–7.6)	8.1 (7.8–8.5)	6.8 (6.5–7.1)
<b>Education</b>			
Less than high school	12.6 (11.9–13.2)	12.2 (11.3–13.1)	13.0 (12.2–13.9)
High school	9.5 (9.1–10.0)	10.1 (9.5–10.8)	9.2 (8.6–9.8)
More than high school	7.2 (7.0–7.5)	7.9 (7.5–8.3)	6.6 (6.3–6.9)

CI = confidence interval.

Data source: 2013–2015 National Health Interview Survey, except American Indian/Alaska Native data, which were from the 2015 Indian Health Service National Data Warehouse.

Higher rates  
of DM among  
the less  
educated



# The Diabetes Educator and the Diabetes Self- management Education Engagement

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The 2015 National Practice Survey

Dawn Sherr, MS, RD, CDE, LDN

Ruth D. Lipman, PhD





# Educational status of DSME Participants:

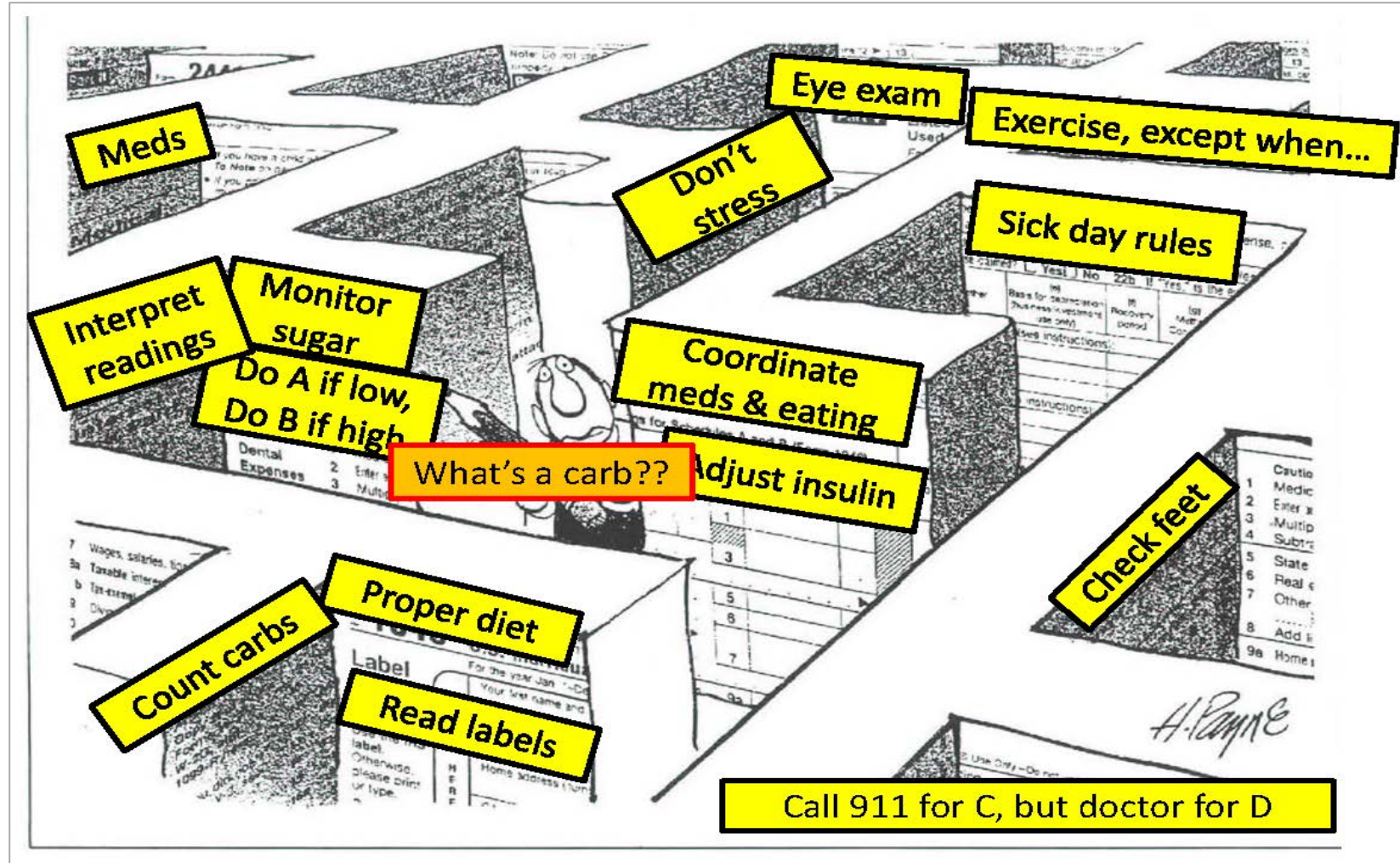
- some college (17%)
- high school or GED degree (61%)
- some high school (13%)

(nearly identical to the proportions reported in 2012  
(61%, 16%, 13%, respectively).

# Outline of topics

1. **Cognitive accessibility of DSMES information and instruction: What is it?**
2. Needless complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and eliminate it
3. Inherent complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and reduce it
4. Examples of reducing complexity in the AADE7™

# Patient's-eye view of diabetes self-care

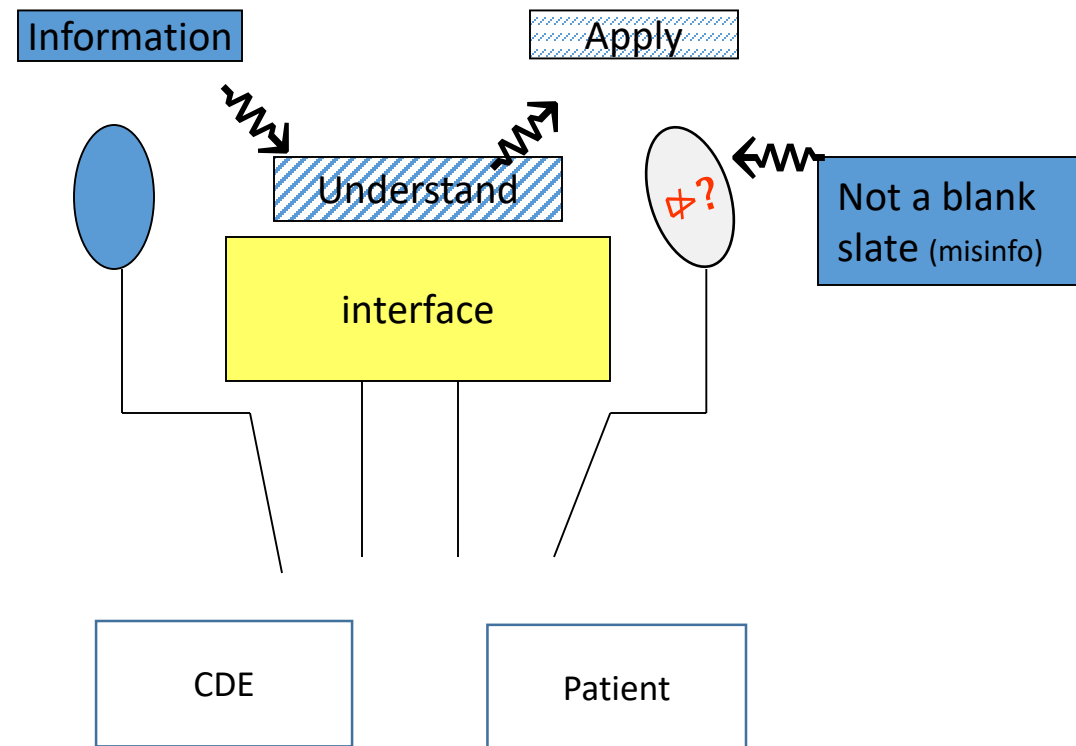


# Job description for diabetes self-management (DSM)

## **Objective: Keep blood glucose within safe limits & avoid complications**

- **Learn about diabetes in general (Ongoing)**
  - Physiological process
  - Interdependence of diet, exercise, meds
  - Symptoms & corrective action
  - Consequences of poor control
- **Apply knowledge to own case (Daily, Hourly)**
  - Implement appropriate regimen
  - Continuously monitor physical signs
  - Diagnose problems in timely manner
  - Adjust food, exercise, meds in timely and appropriate manner
- **Coordinate with relevant parties (Frequently)**
  - Negotiate changes in activities with family, friends, job
  - Enlist/capitalize on social support
  - Communicate status and needs to practitioners
- **Update knowledge & adjust regimen (Occasionally)**
  - When other chronic conditions or disabilities develop
  - When new treatments are ordered
  - When life circumstances change
- **Conditions of work—24/7, no days off, no retirement**

# The challenge of reaching DSM patients



# What is cognitive access to care & self-care?

(1)

(2)

(3)

Cognitive access = person's mental resources – task's cognitive demands

*People* differ enormously in cognitive resources (2)

- Own ability
- Help from others

*Tasks* differ enormously in cognitive demands (3)

- Inherent complexity
- Needless complexity

# Relative risk of cognitive overload & non-adherence

Risk is high when task demands (3) exceed a person's cognitive resources (2) for mastering a DSM task

Demands (3) Resources (2)	Lo	Hi
	Lo	Hi
Hi	Lo risk	
Lo		Hi risk

But

Both a person's resources (2) and demands (3) can rise or fall  
DSMES aims to assess both  
DSMES aims to protect or increase (2) & limit or reduce (3)

# Outline of topics

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# Common tools for assessing health education materials

Guides & rating forms	Source
Readability (e.g., grade level)	
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	Available in MS Word
SMOG Readability Formula	<a href="http://www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php">www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php</a>
Word choice	
Everyday Language for Public Health Communication	CDC
Plain Language Word Suggestions	NIH
Understandability	
Clear Communications Index	CDC
Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool (PEMAT)	AHRQ
Toolkit for Making Material Clear & Effective	CMS
Understandability, specifically to prevent patient errors	
Improving Health Literacy to Protect Patient Safety	Joint Commission
Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit	AHRQ

# Readability formulas: Example

To be or not to be, that is the question.

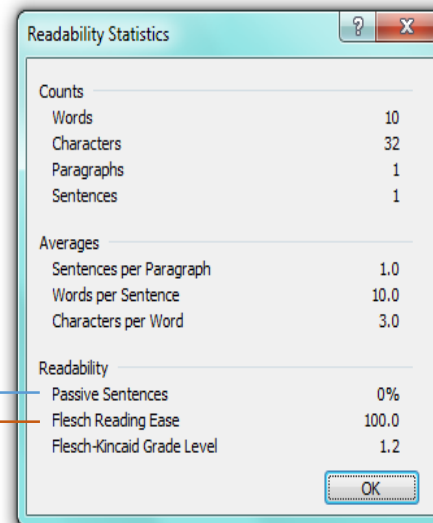
Ingredients of readability:

**ASW**: Average syllables per word

**ASL**: Average words per sentence

$$206.835 - (84.6 * \text{ASW}) - (1.015 * \text{ASL})$$

$$(0.39 * \text{ASL}) + (11.8 * \text{ASW}) - 15.59$$



Readability Statistics	
<b>Counts</b>	
Words	10
Characters	32
Paragraphs	1
Sentences	1
<b>Averages</b>	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.0
Words per Sentence	10.0
Characters per Word	3.0
<b>Readability</b>	
Passive Sentences	0%
Flesch Reading Ease	100.0
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	1.2

- Measure only tiny fraction of what makes written material understandable
- Grade levels are misleading
- Suitable only for continuous prose

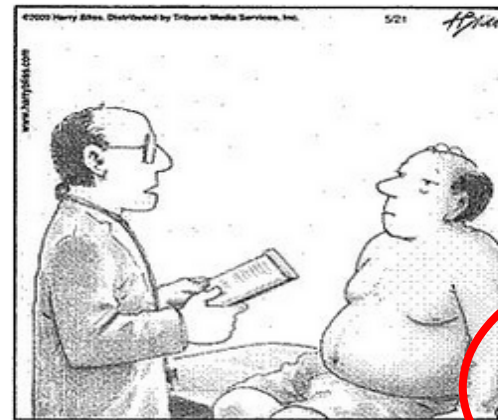
# Plain Language mandated, 2010, for federal government

Some how's

## Plain Language at NIH

Plain language is grammatically correct language that includes complete sentence structure and accurate word usage. Plain language is *not* unprofessional writing or a method of "dumbing down" or "talking down" to the reader.

Writing that is clear and to the point helps improve communication and takes less time to read and understand. Clear writing tells the reader exactly what the reader needs to know without using unnecessary words or expressions.



"Well, yes, I suppose I could explain the test results in 'plain English' — but then you'd know how sick you are."

The why

Part of the NIH mission is to reach all Americans with health information they can use and to communicate in a way that helps people to easily understand research results

## Plain Language: Getting Started or Brushing Up



Use this handy tool to learn about using plain language in your work.

## Plain Language Act

President Barack Obama signed the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (H.R. 946/Public Law 111-274) on October 13, 2010.

## Assessment Tool 1 (3 pp)

For words:

- Use more common, less abstract words
- Use less wordy phrases

INSTEAD OF	TRY	INSTEAD OF	TRY
a and/or b	a or b or both	consolidate	combine, join, merge
accompany	go with	constitutes	is, forms, makes up
accomplish	carry out, do	contains	has
accorded	given	convene	meet
accordingly	so	currently	(omit), now
accrue	add, gain	deem	believe, consider, think
accurate	correct, exact, right	delete	cut, drop
additional	added, more, other	demonstrate	prove, show
address	discuss	depart	leave
addressees	you	designate	appoint, choose, name
addressees are requested	(omit), please	desire	want, wish
adjacent to	next to	determine	decide, figure, find
advantageous	helpful	disclose	show
adversely impact on	hurt, set back	discontinue	drop, stop
advise	recommend, tell	disseminate	give, issue, pass, send
afford an opportunity	allow, let	due to the fact that	due to, since
aircraft	plane	during the period	during
allocate	divide	effect modifications	make changes
anticipate	expect	elect	choose, pick
a number of	some	eliminate	cut, drop, end
apparent	clear, plain	employ	use
appreciable	many	encounter	meet
appropriate	(omit), proper, right	endeavor	try
approximate	about	ensure	make sure
arrive onboard	arrive	enumerate	count
as a means of	to	equipments	equipment
ascertain	find out, learn	equitable	fair
as prescribed by	in, under	establish	set up, prove, show
assist, assistance	aid, help	evidenced	showed
attain	meet	evident	clear
attempt	try	exhibit	show
at the present time	at present, now	expedite	hasten, speed up
be advised	(omit)	expeditious	fast, quick
benefit	help	expend	spend
by means of	by, with	expertise	ability
capability	ability	expiration	end
caveat	warning	facilitate	ease, help
close proximity	near	failed to	didn't
combat environment	combat	feasible	can be done, workable
combined	joint	females	women
commence	begin, start	finalize	complete, finish
comply with	follow	for a period of	for
component	part	for example, _____ etc.	for example, such as
comprise	form, include, make up	forfeit	give up, lose
concerning	about, on	forward	send
consequently	so	frequently	often

Will use this in activities later

## Assessment Tool 1 (3 pp)

function	act, role, work	magnitude	size
furnish	give, send	maintain	keep, support
has a requirement for	needs	maximum	greatest, largest, most
herein	here	methodology	method
heretofore	until now	minimize	decrease, method
herewith	below, here	minimum	least, smallest
however	but	modify	change
identical	same	monitor	check, watch
identify	find, name, show	necessitate	cause, need
immediately	at once	notify	let know, tell
impacted	affected, changed	not later than 10 May	by 10 May, before 11 May
implement	carry out, start	not later than 1600	by 1600
in accordance with	by, following, per, under	notwithstanding	in spite of, still
in addition	also, besides, too	numerous	many
in an effort to	to	objective	aim, goal
inasmuch as	since	obligate	bind, compel
in a timely manner	on time, promptly	observe	see
inception	start	on a _____ basis	(omit)
incumbent upon	must	operate	run, use, work
indicate	show, write down	optimum	best, greatest, most
indication	sign	option	choice, way
initial	first	parameters	limits
initiate	start	participate	take part
in lieu of	instead	perform	do
in order that	for, so	permit	let
in order to	to	pertaining to	about, of, on
in regard to	about, concerning, on	portion	part
in relation to	about, with, to	possess	have, own
inter alia	(omit)	practicable	practical
interface	meet, work with	preclude	prevent
interpose no objection	don't object	previous	earlier
in the amount of	for	previously	before
in the event of	if	prioritize	rank
in the near future	shortly, soon	prior to	before
in the process of	(omit)	proceed	do, go ahead, try
in view of	since	procure	(omit)
in view of the above	so	proficiency	skill
is applicable to	applies to	promulgate	issue, publish
is authorized to	may	provide	give, offer, say
is in consonance with	agrees with, follows	provided that	if
is responsible for	(omit) handles	provides guidance for	guides
it appears	seems	purchase	buy
it is	(omit)	pursuant to	by, following, per, under
it is essential	must, need to	reflect	say, show
it is requested	please, we request, I request	regarding	about, of, on
liaison	discussion	relative to	about, on
limited number	limits	relocate	move

## Assessment Tool 1 (3 pp)

remain	stay	warrant	call for, permit
remainder	rest	whereas	because, since
remuneration	pay, payment	with reference to	about
render	give, make	with the exception of	except for
represents	is	witnessed	saw
request	ask	your office	you
require	must, need	/ (slash)	and, or
requirement	need		
reside	live		
retain	keep		
said, some, such	the, this, that		
selection	choice		
set forth in	in		
similar to	like		
solicit	ask for, request		
state-of-the-art	latest		
subject	the, this, your		
submit	give, send		
subsequent	later, next		
subsequently	after, later, then		
substantial	large, much		
successfully complete	complete, pass		
sufficient	enough		
take action to	(omit)		
terminate	end, stop		
the month of	(omit)		
there are	(omit)		
therefore	so		
therein	there		
there is	(omit)		
thereof	its, their		
the undersigned	I		
the use of	(omit)		
this activity, command	us, we		
timely	prompt		
time period	(either one)		
transmit	send		
type	(omit)		
under the provisions of	under		
until such time as	until		
utilize, utilization	use		
validate	confirm		
viable	practical, workable		
vice	instead of, versus		

# Substitutes for jargon

**Health care provider:** health care professional; health professional; doctor; nurse; dentist; pharmacist; people who take care of you or provide health care (Note: Whenever possible, be specific about the type of care professional.)

**CDC Original Sentence**

Women and their doctors or other **health care professionals** need to understand the risks and benefits associated with prescription painkillers and understand that there are solutions to prevent misuse, abuse, and even death.

**Plain Language Sentence**

**Health care professionals** need to understand the risks and benefits of prescription painkillers and how their patients can avoid misuse, abuse, and even death from these medicines. Professionals can also educate their patients about these topics.

**Maintain:** keep, keep up, care for, look after, save, support, take care of

**CDC Original Sentence**

If you live alone, **maintain** social ties with coworkers, friends, and family members.

**Plain Language Sentence**

**Keep** in touch with coworkers, friends, and family members if you live alone.

**Manage:** control, direct, be in charge of, take care of, watch, pay attention to

**CDC Original Sentence**

Teach your child to **manage** diabetes at school by encouraging physical activity and healthy eating as well as medication and testing routines.

**Plain Language Sentence**

Encourage your child to be active and eat foods that keep diabetes **under control** while at school. Also, teach your child about the right way to test blood sugar and take medicines.

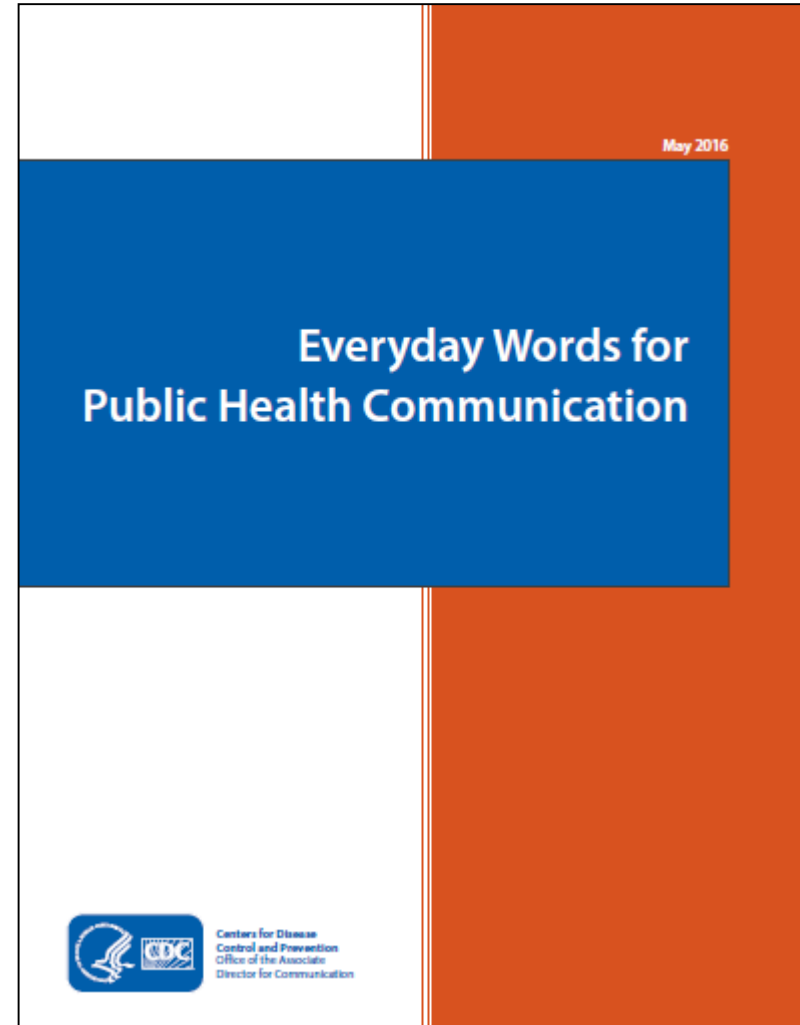
**Medication:** medicine

**CDC Original Sentence**

If you are pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant, talk with your doctor about any **medications** you are taking or thinking about taking.

**Plain Language Sentence**

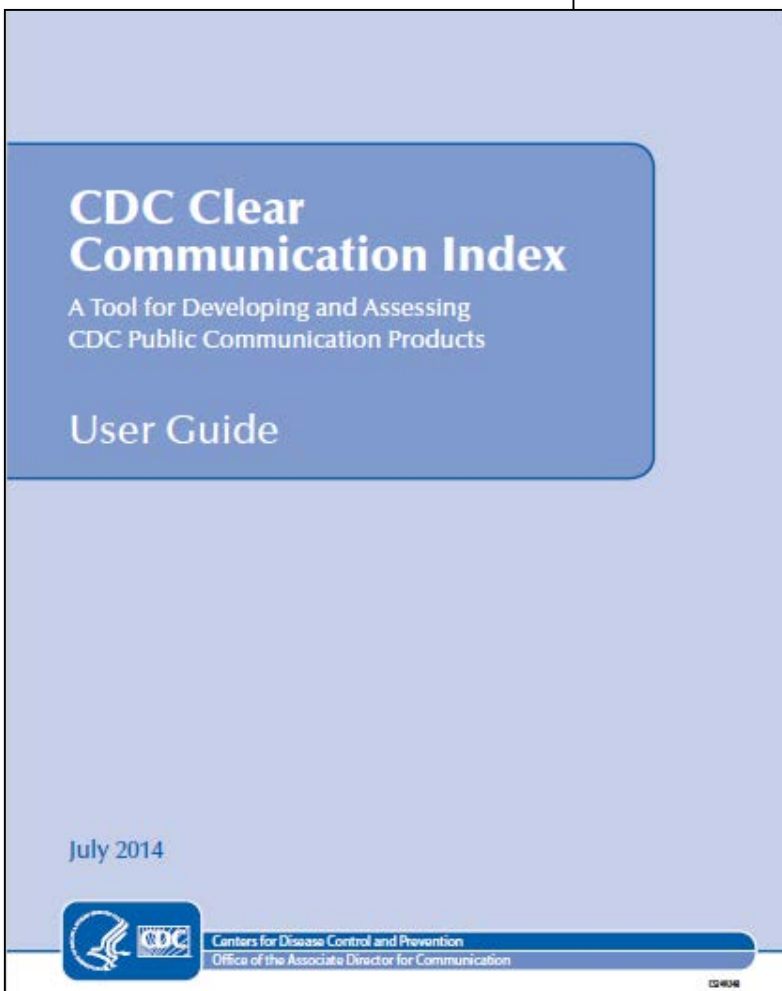
If you are pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant, talk with your doctor about any **medicine** you are taking or thinking about taking.



# Understandability: Example from CDC

## Anatomy of a Material

The following example illustrates how multiple Index items work together to make a material easier to understand and use.



<http://www.cdc.gov/ccindex/pdf/clear-communication-user-guide.pdf>

Main message is at the top of the page

Vaccine Safety > Addressing Common Concerns > Thimerosal

Recommended 106 Tweet 9 Share

Visual supports the text

### Thimerosal: You asked. We answered.

Some parents have questions about the safety of ingredients — like thimerosal ("THY-mayr-uhsal") — in children's shots (vaccines).

We want you to know that thimerosal is no longer used in children's shots, except the flu shot. You can ask for a flu shot without thimerosal.

Check out these answers to common questions about thimerosal.



#### What is thimerosal?

Thimerosal is added to some shots to prevent germs (like bacteria and fungi) from growing in them.

If germs grow in vaccines, they can cause illness — or even death.

Unfamiliar terms are explained

#### Why do some people worry about thimerosal in vaccines?

You may have heard that thimerosal has mercury in it. Not all types of mercury are the same. Some types of mercury, like mercury in some kinds of fish, can stay in the human body and make us sick. Thimerosal is a different type of mercury. It doesn't stay in the body, and is unlikely to make us sick.

Uses headings and chunked text

#### Is thimerosal safe?

Yes. Thimerosal has been used safely in vaccines for a long time (since the 1930s).

Scientists have been studying the use of thimerosal in vaccines for many years. They haven't found any evidence that thimerosal causes harm.

#### Is thimerosal still used in vaccines for children?

No. Thimerosal hasn't been used in vaccines for children since 2001.

However, thimerosal is still used in some flu vaccines. The flu vaccine is recommended for all children. If you are worried about thimerosal, ask for a flu vaccine without it.



# Understandability: Example from AHRQ

## UNDERSTANDABILITY

Item #	Item	Response Options	Rating
<b>Topic: Content</b>			
1	The material makes its purpose completely evident.	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
2	The material does not include information or content that distracts from its purpose.	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
<b>Topic: Word Choice &amp; Style</b>			
3	The material uses common, everyday language.	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
4	Medical terms are used only to familiarize audience with the terms. When used, medical terms are defined.	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
5	The material uses the active voice.	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
<b>Topic: Use of Numbers</b>			
6	Numbers appearing in the material are clear and easy to understand.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, No numbers=N/A	
7	The material does not expect the user to perform calculations.	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
<b>Topic: Organization</b>			
8	The material breaks or “chunks” information into short sections.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, Very short material*=N/A	
9	The material’s sections have informative headers.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, Very short material*=N/A	
10	The material presents information in a logical sequence.	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
11	The material provides a summary.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, Very short material*=N/A	
<b>Topic: Layout &amp; Design</b>			
12	The material uses visual cues (e.g., arrows, boxes, bullets, bold, larger font, highlighting) to draw attention to key points.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, Video=N/A	



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## The Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool (PEMAT) and User’s Guide

<b>Topic: Use of Visual Aids</b>			
15	The material uses visual aids whenever they could make content more easily understood (e.g., illustration of healthy portion size).	Disagree=0, Agree=1	
16	The material’s visual aids reinforce rather than distract from the content.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, No visual aids=N/A	
17	The material’s visual aids have clear titles or captions.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, No visual aids=N/A	
18	The material uses illustrations and photographs that are clear and uncluttered.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, No visual aids=N/A	
19	The material uses simple tables with short and clear row and column headings.	Disagree=0, Agree=1, No tables=N/A	

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Toolkit for Making Written Material Clear and Effective

Toolkit Table of Contents

Toolkit Part 1: About this Toolkit

Toolkit for Making Written Material Clear and Effective

The Toolkit for Making Written Material Clear and Effective is a health literacy resource from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As shown below, this 11-part Toolkit provides a detailed and comprehensive set of tools to help you make written material in printed formats easier for people to read, understand, and use.

Guidelines

2.1

to 2.5

Organization (sequencing, grouping, and labeling)

Toolkit Part 4, Chapter 2 shows how to apply these guidelines

2.1

**Group the information into meaningful “chunks” of reasonable size.**

Readers can handle only a limited amount of information at one time. To avoid information overload, divide the text in ways that will make sense to the readers. Keep each segment or section of text relatively short. When you use bulleted lists, limit the number of bulleted points (group the points into sections if the list is long).

2.3

**Use headings, subheadings, and other devices to signal what’s coming next.**

These devices are “advance organizers” that show readers how the material is grouped and sequenced, and prepare them for the next topic.

Guidelines

3.1

to 3.8

Writing style

Toolkit Part 4, Chapter 3 shows how to apply these guidelines

- 3.5

**Create cohesion by making strong, logical connections among your sentences and paragraphs.**

Develop ideas in a logical progression that makes the connections between ideas explicit. Repeat key words and phrases to reinforce learning and create continuity.

Guidelines

7.1

to 7.4

Headings, bulleted lists, and emphasizing blocks of text

Toolkit Part 5, Chapter 4 shows how to apply these guidelines

7.1

**To make the material easy to skim and show how it is organized, create a clear hierarchy of prominent headings and subheadings.**

Left-justify the headings and subheadings, because readers sometimes miss headings that are centered. To emphasize how the material is structured, use contrast in fonts and maintain clear and consistent alignments, indentations, and spacing between headings and the text that follows.



## Use of color

Toolkit Part 5, Chapter 5  
shows how to apply  
these guidelines

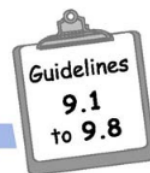
- 8.2** Use color sparingly, in a consistent and deliberate way that reinforces the meaning of your messages and enhances their impact.
- Resist the impulse to use color in decorative ways that may distract people from the text. For greatest impact, use color with restraint, since using too much color creates “color overload” that can overwhelm and distract your readers. Be cautious about using color coding as a device. If you use color coding, do it in a consistent way and make the meaning clear to readers. Get feedback from readers to verify that they understand the color coding and find it helpful.



## Tables, charts, and diagrams

Toolkit Part 5, Chapter 7  
shows how to apply  
these guidelines

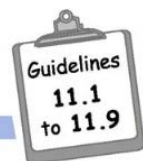
- 10.4** If there are any numbers or calculations, explain them carefully and give examples.
- Since math is hard for many people, and can be especially hard for people with low literacy skills, take special care with explanations that involve numbers. With calculations, use examples that show each step and explain it clearly. Simplify numeric examples by using rounded whole numbers as much as you can. To help people understand weights and measurements, make comparisons to familiar objects.



## Photographs, illustrations, clip art, and symbols

Toolkit Part 5, Chapter 6  
shows how to apply  
these guidelines

- 9.1** Use photos, illustrations, symbols, and other visuals that relate directly to the information in the material and reinforce your key messages.
- Images have great impact, so select them carefully and use them to highlight key points. Instead of using images to decorate the pages, choose images that reflect the subject matter of your materials. Try to show only the behaviors you want to encourage. Avoid using images that are too abstract or hard for readers to understand, such as parts of the body shown in isolation, cross-sections, and highly magnified images.



## Forms and questionnaires

Toolkit Part 5, Chapter 8  
shows how to apply  
these guidelines

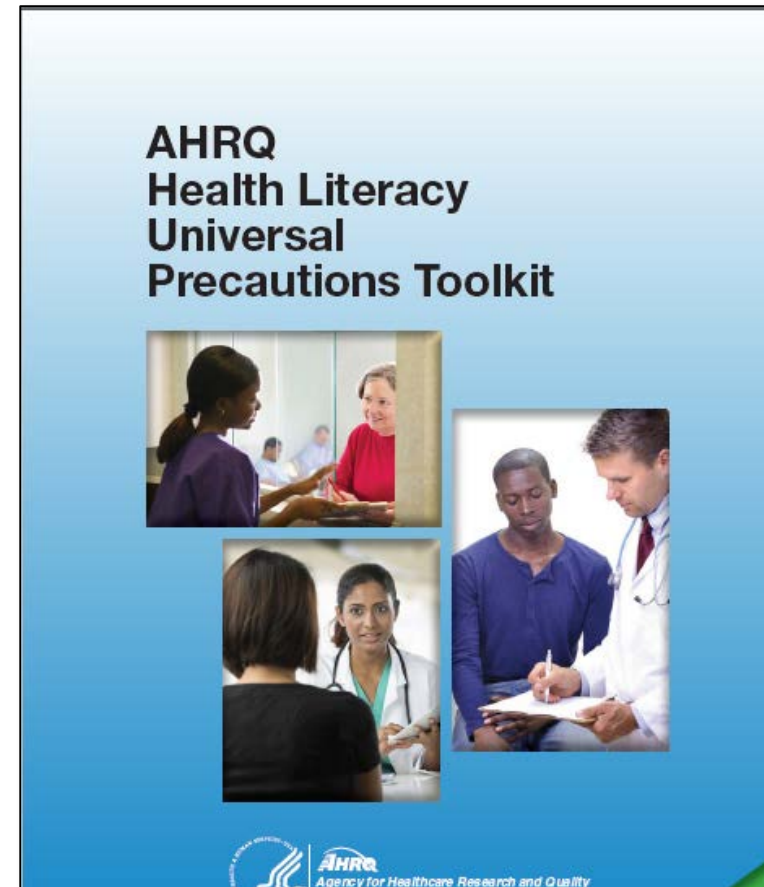
- 11.6** In a form for people with low literacy skills, avoid using a grid or matrix format to collect information.
- A grid or matrix format has rows and columns. When you use a grid to collect information, readers have to keep looking up at the headings at the top of the columns to understand what you are asking for. To make it easier for people to give accurate answers, consider breaking each part of the grid into a fully labeled separate item.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Time (breakfast)							
Blood Sugar							
Medicine							
Time (lunch)							
Blood Sugar							
Medicine							
Time (dinner)							
Blood Sugar							
Medicine							
Time (bed)							
Blood Sugar							
Medicine							

# Some toolkits focus on educating to *prevent* dangerous patient errors

## Anticipate and prevent errors.

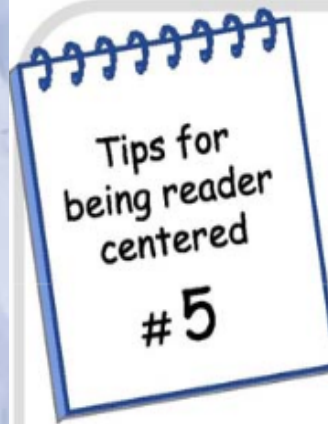
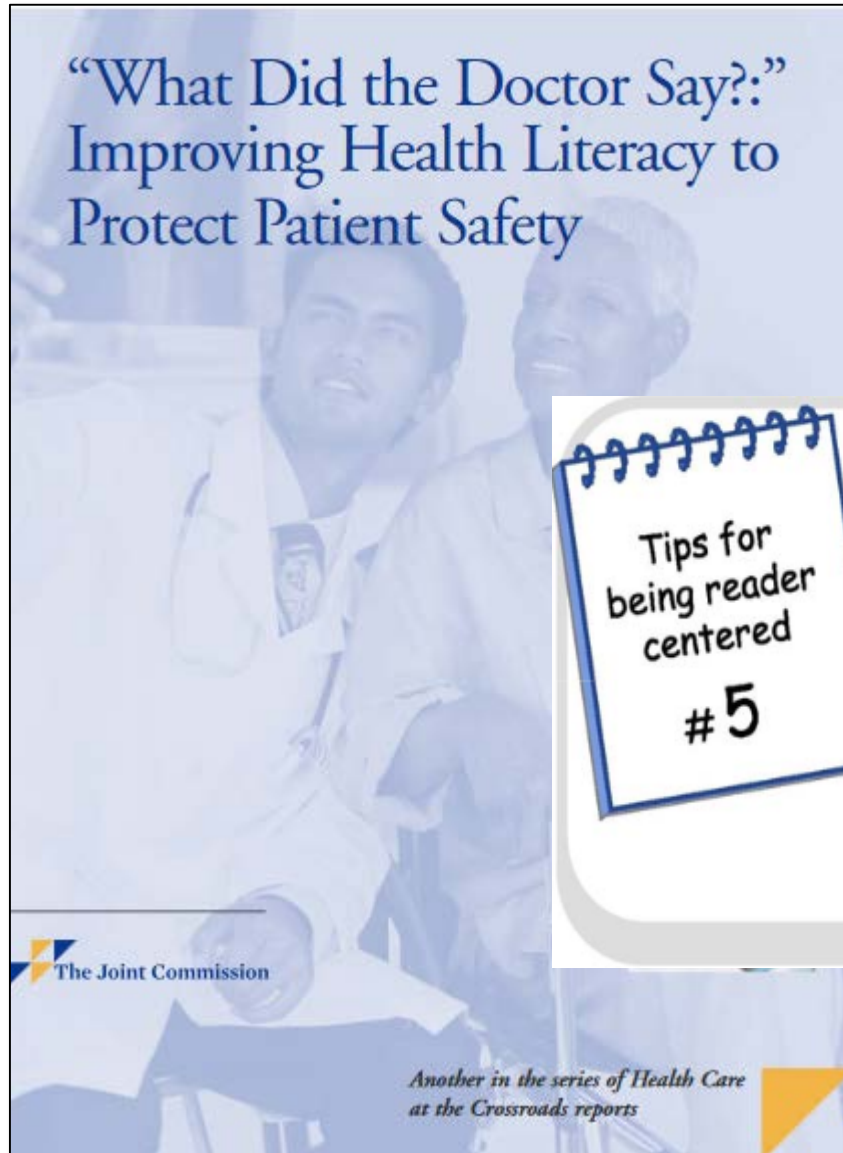
- **Consider purchasing online reminder tools.** There are a number of commercially available tools that include features like:
  - Lists of patient medicines and simple explanations of what each medicine is for.
  - Audiovisual tutorials to help patients learn how to take their medicines.
  - Email or text messages to remind patients to take their medicines and to refill their prescriptions.
- **Always write prescriptions that include precise instructions for taking the medicine.** For example, instead of writing “twice daily” write, “Take 1 pill in the morning and 1 pill at bedtime.” Use the evidence-based instructions for taking pills, which can be installed in your EHR for eprescribing. The instructions are also available in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Include a plain language description of what the prescription is for (e.g., “for high blood pressure”).
- **Warn patients about possible changes in the color, shape, and size of pills.** Make patients aware that color, shape, and size of pills may change when they refill prescriptions. Reassure them that, as long as the name of the medicine and the dose are the same as what they are used to taking, their medicine will work the same way and should be taken as originally directed.



[https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/publications/files/healthlittoolkit2\\_3.pdf](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/publications/files/healthlittoolkit2_3.pdf)



# Understandability: Example from Joint Commission



Orient your writing and design toward the subset of your readers who are less attentive, less knowledgeable, and less skilled at reading.

Your intended readers will differ in the attention they give to the material as well as the subject matter knowledge and literacy skills they bring to it. If you create written material that works well for those who are less attentive, less knowledgeable, and less skilled at reading, you will reach a larger proportion of your audience.

All these tools assess materials against the same  
basic principles of good writing

Good writing:

- Removes needless complexity and confusion
- Clears the cognitive path for readers to understand it.
- Builds a direct, well-lighted logical path to the main point, with no detours or distractions.
- *Helps* the reader understand by appreciating their needs.
- Takes practice and feedback.

## Handout

## Checklist for CDC's Clear Communications Index

CDC's checklist covers many of those principles.

There's a copy in the left pocket of your folder.

<b>Before You Begin, Ask Yourself:</b>	
1.	Who is my primary audience?
2.	What do I know about the health literacy skills of my audience?
3.	What is my primary communication objective?
4.	What is the main message statement in the material?
<b>Part A: Core (applies to all materials)</b>	
<b>Main Message and Call to Action</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Does the material contain one main message statement?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Is the main message at the top, beginning, or front of the material?
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Is the main message emphasized with visual cues?
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Does the material contain at least one visual that conveys or supports the main message?
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Does the material include one or more calls to action for the primary audience?
<b>Language</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Do <u>both</u> the main message and the call to action use the active voice?
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Does the material always use words the primary audience uses?
<b>Information Design</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Does the material use bulleted or numbered lists?
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Is the material organized in chunks with headings?
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Is the most important information the primary audience needs summarized in the first paragraph or section?
<b>State of the Science</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Does the material explain what authoritative sources, such as subject matter experts and agency spokespersons, know <u>and</u> don't know about the topic?
<b>Part B: Behavioral Recommendations</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Does the material include one or more behavioral recommendations for the primary audience?
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Does the material explain why the behavioral recommendation(s) is important to the primary audience?
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Does the behavioral recommendation(s) include specific directions about how to perform the behavior?
<b>Part C: Numbers</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Does the material <u>always</u> present numbers the primary audience uses?
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Does the material <u>always</u> explain what the numbers mean?
<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Does the audience have to conduct mathematical calculations? (NO gets a check)
<b>Part D: Risk – if relevant</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Does the material explain the nature of the risk?
<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Does the material address both the risks <u>and</u> benefits of the recommended behaviors?
<input type="checkbox"/>	20. If the material uses numeric probability to describe risk, is the probability also explained with words or a visual?
<b>Calculate the Total Score for the Material</b> (90% "yes" for relevant items is good)	

Source: Adapted from CDC's Clear Communication Index Score Sheet (<https://www.cdc.gov/ccindex/pdf/full-index-score-sheet.pdf>)



# Using Insulin: Version 1

## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

### Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*

Insulin is a hormone that helps your body use the sugar (glucose) you get from the food you eat. Insulin levels rise and fall in response to the level of glucose in your blood. Insulin's main job is to help glucose get from your blood into the cells of your body, where it is used as fuel to keep the cells working normally.

The pancreas is the organ in your body that produces insulin throughout the day.

- When you have type 1 diabetes, you do not produce insulin
- When you have type 2 diabetes, you either do not produce enough insulin or your body's cells do not respond to the insulin properly, called insulin resistance

When you need to take insulin, there are different types. In some cases, you may use a mixture of different types, such as short-acting and long-acting insulins.

People with type 1 diabetes must use insulin injections to keep their blood sugar at a normal or close to normal level.



People with type 2 diabetes often need to add insulin to control their blood sugar when oral medications or non-insulin injectable medications (exenatide and liraglutide) are not enough.

## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

### Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*



The number of insulin injections you take may vary from once a day to using different types of insulin at different times of the day. When you first start taking insulin, your healthcare provider will decide on the type, the amount, and frequency of the injections of insulin you need. This will be based on your lifestyle, blood sugar level, and any other diabetic medications you may be taking. Monitoring your diet along with your blood sugar levels will be important in deciding if any changes are needed in your insulin dose.

Remember that insulin injections will lower your blood sugar level whether you have eaten or not. Very low blood sugar, known as hypoglycemia, can cause serious problems. Eating regular meals is very important when taking insulin.

Most people have no problem getting used to taking insulin injections. They feel better when their blood sugar is well controlled.

All people with diabetes need to help control their blood sugar by

- Eating a healthy diet
- Doing moderate exercise
- Losing weight or maintaining a normal weight

# Using Insulin: Version 2

## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

### Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*

Insulin helps your body get energy from the food you eat. If you do not have enough insulin, or the insulin you have is not working right, you have diabetes and need to take medicine.

- People with type 1 diabetes do not make any insulin and **MUST** inject insulin.
- People with type 2 diabetes do not make enough insulin or need help using the insulin they have. They need to use pills, insulin shots or both.

The only way to get insulin into your body is with a shot. Many people with diabetes use insulin shots.

There are many kinds of insulin, some work fast, others do not.



## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

### Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*

You may need one shot of insulin a day, or you may need more. Your healthcare provider will explain what kind of insulin, the amount, and when you need it.

Your weight, diet and other medicines are important when deciding how much insulin you will need.

It is important to eat regular meals when you take insulin. Insulin shots help your blood sugar levels stay normal. If you take too much insulin or have not eaten, your blood sugar can drop too low. This is called “hypoglycemia.”

Most people get used to using shots to take their insulin.

When you have diabetes it is important to:

- Eat a healthy diet
- Exercise
- Keep your weight down

These **Starting Insulin** fact sheets will help you learn more about insulin.



# Using insulin: Version 1

## Low literacy

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

## Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*

Insulin is a hormone that helps your body use the sugar (glucose) you get from the food you eat. Insulin levels rise and fall in response to the level of glucose in your blood. Insulin's main job is to help glucose get from your blood into the cells of your body, where it is used as fuel to keep the cells working normally.

The pancreas is the organ in your body that produces insulin throughout the day.

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- When you have type 2 diabetes, you either do not produce enough insulin or your body's cells do not respond to the insulin properly, called insulin resistance

When you need to take insulin, there are different types. In some cases, you may use a mixture of different types, such as short-acting and long-acting insulins.

People with type 1 diabetes must use insulin injections to keep their blood sugar at a normal or close to normal level.

Readability Statistics	
Counts	
Words	399
Characters	1932
Paragraphs	20
Sentences	17
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	2.1
Words per Sentence	17.2
Characters per Word	4.7
Readability	
Passive Sentences	5%
Flesch Reading Ease	55.6
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	9.7

People with type 2 diabetes often need to add insulin to control their blood sugar when oral medications or non-insulin injectable medications (exenatide and liraglutide) are not enough.

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

## Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*



The number of insulin injections you take may vary from once a day to using different types of insulin at different times of the day. When you first start taking insulin, your healthcare provider will decide on the type, the amount, and frequency of the injections of insulin you need. This will be based on your lifestyle, blood sugar level, and any other diabetic medications you may be taking. Monitoring your diet along with your blood sugar levels will be important in deciding if any changes are needed in your insulin dose.

Remember that insulin injections will lower your blood sugar level whether you have eaten or not. Very low blood sugar, known as hypoglycemia, can cause serious problems. Eating regular meals is very important when taking insulin.

Most people have no problem getting used to taking insulin injections. They feel better when their blood sugar is well controlled.

All people with diabetes need to help control their blood sugar by

- Eating a healthy diet
- Doing moderate exercise
- Losing weight or maintaining a normal weight



# Using insulin: Version 2

## Very low literacy

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

## Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*

Insulin helps your body get energy from the food you eat. If you do not have enough insulin, or the insulin you have is not working right, you have diabetes and need to take medicine.

- People with type 1 diabetes do not make any insulin and **MUST** inject insulin.
- People with type 2 diabetes do not make enough insulin or need help using the insulin they have. They need to use pills, insulin shots or both.

The only way to get insulin into your body is with a shot. Many people with diabetes use insulin shots.

There are many kinds of insulin, some work fast, others do not.

Readability Statistics	
Counts	
Words	267
Characters	1205
Paragraphs	19
Sentences	17
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.8
Words per Sentence	12.3
Characters per Word	4.3
Readability	
Passive Sentences	0%
Flesch Reading Ease	71.8
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	6.3

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

## Using insulin to treat your diabetes: *What it means for you*

You may need one shot of insulin a day, or you may need more. Your healthcare provider will explain what kind of insulin, the amount, and when you need it.

Your weight, diet and other medicines are important when deciding how much insulin you will need.

It is important to eat regular meals when you take insulin. Insulin shots help your blood sugar levels stay normal. If you take too much insulin or have not eaten, your blood sugar can drop too low. This is called “hypoglycemia.”

Most people get used to using shots to take their insulin.

When you have diabetes it is important to:

- Eat a healthy diet
- Exercise
- Keep your weight down

These **Starting Insulin** fact sheets will help you learn more about insulin.



# Injecting insulin: Version 1

## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

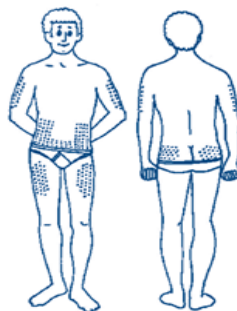
### INJECTING INSULIN

Insulin needs to be given by a shot into the fat under the skin. The needles are very tiny and slide easily into the skin.

The dots on this picture show where the insulin can be given.

#### Be Careful:

- Do not always inject in the same spot.
- Do not inject near your belly button.
- Do not inject near moles or scars.
- Do not inject in areas with a rash.



#### Injecting Insulin:

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Pick a clean, dry part of your body.
3. Make sure you are using the correct insulin.
4. If your insulin is cloudy, roll it gently between your hands to mix it. Do not shake it.
5. Take the caps off the insulin syringe. There are probably two caps, one for the plunger and one over the needle.
6. Pull the plunger to the number of units you use to fill it with air.
7. Put the needle in the insulin and push the air into the bottle.

## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

### INJECTING INSULIN

8. Pull out the number of units you need.
9. Look for air bubbles in the syringe. Tap the syringe to move air bubbles to the top and gently push them out with the plunger.
10. Use the insulin immediately.
11. Gently grab a fold of fatty skin between your fingers.
12. Push the needle into the skin and push the plunger to get the insulin into your body.
13. Wait a few seconds before you pull out the syringe.
14. Do not rub the area. Write down the amount of insulin you used, the time you gave it, and where you put it.



#### Using an insulin pen:

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Pick a clean and dry site.
3. Turn the dial on your insulin pen to the number of units you need.
4. Some pens need to be “primed” first. Ask your healthcare provider about this.
5. Gently grab a fold of fatty skin between your fingers.
6. Push the needle into the skin and press down on the plunger.
7. Hold the pen in for 5 seconds.

**Your healthcare provider can help you learn how to inject insulin using a syringe or a pen.**

# Injecting insulin: Version 2

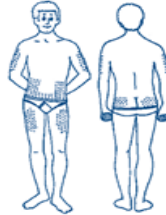
## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

### INJECTING INSULIN

Insulin works best when injected into the fat just under the skin, not into the muscle.

Use the picture to see where to inject insulin.

- Each injection should be at least a finger-width away from your last injection.
- Injecting in the same spot causes hard lumps or fatty deposits and affects your body's ability to absorb the insulin.



Insulin needles are thin and have a coating to make them slide into the skin. You can barely feel them.

Do **not** inject insulin:

- Near moles or scars
- In areas that look red, infected or have a rash
- Within 2 inches of the navel—in any direction

#### Injecting insulin with a syringe

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Choose a clean and dry site.
3. Check the bottle to be sure you are using the right insulin.
4. If your insulin is cloudy, mix it by gently rolling the bottle between the palms of your hands 20 times. Do **not** shake insulin.
5. Remove the caps covering the plunger and the needle. Pull the plunger back, filling the empty syringe with air to the amount matching your insulin dose.

## Starting Insulin – a patient guide

### INJECTING INSULIN

6. While the insulin bottle is steady on a tabletop, push the needle straight down into the rubber top, and then push down on the plunger.
7. Turn the syringe and bottle upside down, keeping the point of the needle below the level of insulin in the bottle. Slowly pull back on the plunger to fill the syringe to the correct dosage.
8. Check for air bubbles in the syringe. Tap the syringe to move any air bubbles to the top. Carefully push the plunger to expel the air bubbles.
9. Check again that you have the right dose and the right type of insulin.
10. Remove the needle from the top of the insulin bottle and use it immediately.
11. Gently pinch a fold of skin between your thumb and forefinger.
12. Push the needle quickly, straight into the skin. Relax the pinch and push the plunger to inject the insulin. Pull the needle straight out.
13. Cover the injection site with your finger or a cotton ball or gauze. Apply slight pressure for 5-8 seconds, but do not rub the site.
14. Write down how much insulin you injected, the time of day, and site.

#### Injecting insulin with an insulin pen

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Choose a clean and dry site.
3. Turn the dial on your insulin pen to your dose of insulin.
4. Some pens need to be “primed” to get the air out of the syringe. Ask your healthcare provider to show you how to do this.
5. Gently pinch a fold of skin between your thumb and forefinger.
6. Push needle into the skin, and then relax the pinch.
7. Press down on the plunger to inject the insulin.
8. Hold the pen in the skin for a count of 5 seconds.

Practice injections in front of your healthcare provider to help learn this skill.

# Injecting insulin: Version 1

## Very low literacy

**Starting Insulin – a patient guide**

**INJECTING INSULIN**

Insulin needs to be given by a shot into the fat under the skin. The needles are very tiny and slide easily into the skin.

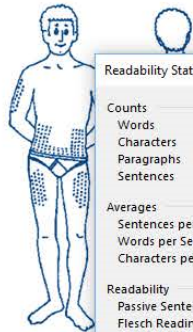
The dots on this picture show where the insulin can be given.

**Be Careful:**

- Do not always inject in the same spot.
- Do not inject near your belly button.
- Do not inject near moles or scars.
- Do not inject in areas with a rash.

**Injecting Insulin:**

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Pick a clean, dry part of your body.
3. Make sure you are using the correct insulin.
4. If your insulin is cloudy, roll it gently between your hands to mix it. Do not shake it.
5. Take the caps off the insulin syringe. There are probably two caps, one for the plunger and one over the needle.
6. Pull the plunger to the number of units you use to fill it with air.
7. Put the needle in the insulin and push the air into the bottle.



Readability Statistics

Counts

Words	358
Characters	1506
Paragraphs	35
Sentences	34

Averages

Sentences per Paragraph	1.2
Words per Sentence	9.8
Characters per Word	3.9

Readability


Passive Sentences	5%
Flesch Reading Ease	85.5
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	3.7

OK

**Starting Insulin – a patient guide**

**INJECTING INSULIN**

8. Pull out the number of units you need.
9. Look for air bubbles in the syringe. Tap the syringe to move air bubbles to the top and gently push them out with the plunger.
10. Use the insulin immediately.
11. Gently grab a fold of fatty skin between your fingers.
12. Push the needle into the skin and push the plunger to get the insulin into your body.
13. Wait a few seconds before you pull out the syringe.
14. Do not rub the area. Write down the amount of insulin you used, the time you gave it, and where you put it.



**Using an insulin pen:**

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Pick a clean and dry site.
3. Turn the dial on your insulin pen to the number of units you need.
4. Some pens need to be “primed” first. Ask your healthcare provider about this.
5. Gently grab a fold of fatty skin between your fingers.
6. Push the needle into the skin and press down on the plunger.
7. Hold the pen in for 5 seconds.

**Your healthcare provider can help you learn how to inject insulin using a syringe or a pen.**

# Injecting insulin: Version 2

## Low literacy

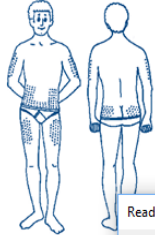
**Starting Insulin – a patient guide**

**INJECTING INSULIN**

Insulin works best when injected into the fat just under the skin, not into the muscle.

Use the picture to see where to inject insulin.

- Each injection should be at least a finger-width away from your last injection.
- Injecting in the same spot causes hard lumps or fatty deposits and affects your body's ability to absorb the insulin.



Insulin needles are thin and have a coating to make them slide into the skin. You can barely feel them.

Do **not** inject insulin:

- Near moles or scars
- In areas that look red, infected or have a rash
- Within 2 inches of the navel—in any direction

### Injecting insulin with a syringe

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Choose a clean and dry site.
3. Check the bottle to be sure you are using the right insulin.
4. If your insulin is cloudy, mix it by gently rolling the bottle between the palms of your hands 20 times. Do **not** shake insulin.
5. Remove the caps covering the plunger and the needle. Pull the plunger back, filling the empty syringe with air to the amount matching your insulin dose.

Readability Statistics

Counts	
Words	494
Characters	2208
Paragraphs	39
Sentences	38
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.3
Words per Sentence	11.3
Characters per Word	4.2
Readability	
Passive Sentences	0%
Flesch Reading Ease	78.1
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	5.1

OK

**Starting Insulin – a patient guide**

**INJECTING INSULIN**

6. While the insulin bottle is steady on a tabletop, push the needle straight down into the rubber top, and then push down on the plunger.
7. Turn the syringe and bottle upside down, keeping the point of the needle below the level of insulin in the bottle. Slowly pull back on the plunger to fill the syringe to the correct dosage.
8. Check for air bubbles in the syringe. Tap the syringe to move any air bubbles to the top. Carefully push the plunger to expel the air bubbles.
9. Check again that you have the right dose and the right type of insulin.
10. Remove the needle from the top of the insulin bottle and use it immediately.
11. Gently pinch a fold of skin between your thumb and forefinger.
12. Push the needle quickly, straight into the skin. Relax the pinch and push the plunger to inject the insulin. Pull the needle straight out.
13. Cover the injection site with your finger or a cotton ball or gauze. Apply slight pressure for 5-8 seconds, but do not rub the site.
14. Write down how much insulin you injected, the time of day, and site.

### Injecting insulin with an insulin pen

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Choose a clean and dry site.
3. Turn the dial on your insulin pen to your dose of insulin.
4. Some pens need to be “primed” to get the air out of the syringe. Ask your healthcare provider to show you how to do this.
5. Gently pinch a fold of skin between your thumb and forefinger.
6. Push needle into the skin, and then relax the pinch.
7. Press down on the plunger to inject the insulin.
8. Hold the pen in the skin for a count of 5 seconds.

Practice injections in front of your healthcare provider to help learn this skill.



# Activity

1. List all the actions required to inject insulin (choose either syringe or pen). *Answer on the handout.*
2. How would you educate a patient to complete this task?
3. Be sure to use action verbs & Plain Language.

# List actions required to inject insulin

(E.g., look at the vial/pen to identify the name/type of insulin.)


# Activity

1. List the actions required to read a food label and take meaningful action with the information. *Use the label and form provided in your handouts.*
2. Be sure to use action verbs and Plain Language.

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g/About 21 pieces)	
Servings Per Container About 2	
Amount Per Serving	
<b>Calories</b> 170	Calories from Fat 110
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 11g	<b>17%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	<b>8%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 250mg	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 14g	<b>5%</b>
Dietary Fiber less than 1g	<b>2%</b>
Sugars 0g	
<b>Protein</b> 2g	
Vitamin A 2%	• Vitamin C 0%
Calcium 0%	• Iron 4%
Vitamin E 6%	• Thiamin 4%
Riboflavin 2%	• Niacin 4%
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> 2%	• Phosphorus 2%
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g
Calories per gram:	
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4	

# List the actions required to use a nutrition label

(E.g., locate the serving size on the label)

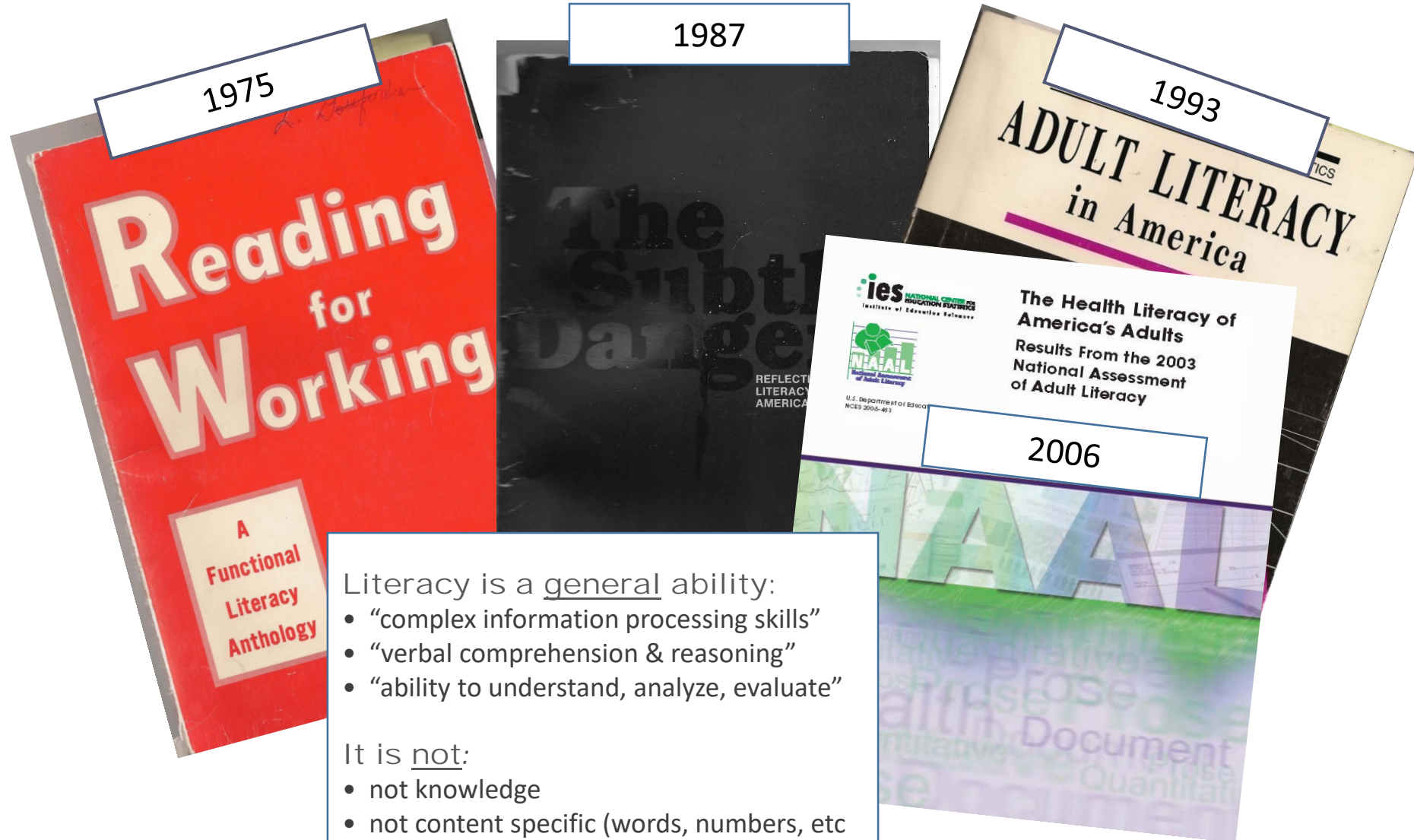

# Outline of topics

1. Cognitive accessibility of DSMES information and instruction: What is it?
2. Needless complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and eliminate it
- 3. Inherent complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and reduce it**
4. Examples of reducing complexity in the AADE7™

# Four decades of literacy research



# Surprising, common conclusion



Literacy is a general ability:

- “complex information processing skills”
- “verbal comprehension & reasoning”
- “ability to understand, analyze, evaluate”

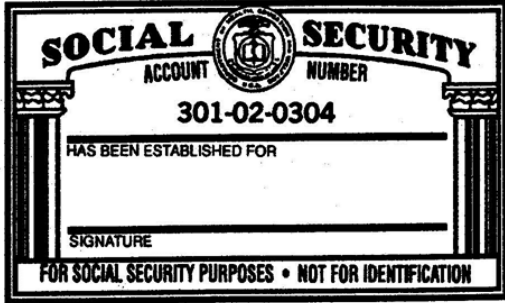
It is not:

- not knowledge
- not content specific (words, numbers, etc)
- not modality specific (read, listen)



# Sample tasks

Here is a Social Security card. Sign your name on the line that reads "signature."



What is the gross pay for this year to date?

HOURS		REGULAR		OVERTIME		GROSS		DEF. AMT.		NET PAY	
REGULAR	OVERTIME	REGULAR	OVERTIME	REGULAR	OVERTIME	REGULAR	OVERTIME	REGULAR	OVERTIME	REGULAR	OVERTIME
500		62500		62500		62500		62500		62500	
TOTAL		YEAR-TO-DATE		GROSS		DEF. AMT.		NET PAY		GROSS	
500		62500		62500		62500		62500		62500	
TAX DEDUCTIONS		FICA		CR UNION		UNITED FD		PERS INS		MISC.	
FED. WTH		STATE WTH		CITY WTH		FICA		CR UNION		UNITED FD	
10894		1375				3631					
YEAR TO DATE		73498		8250		26167					
NON-NEGOTIABLE											
OTHER DEDUCTIONS											
CODE		TYPE		AMOUNT		CODE		TYPE		AMOUNT	
07		DEN		412							

Pediatric Dosage Chart

**Recommend**  
ALCOHOL-FREE  
ASPIRIN-FREE  
**Tempra**  
ACETAMINOPHEN

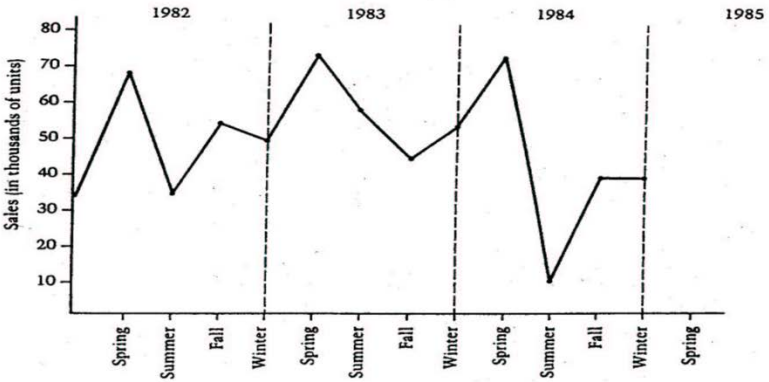
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Pediatric Dosage Chart Drops, Syrup, & Chewables

Age	Approximate Weight Range*	Dosage			
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† 10 to 24 mo	21-26 lb	1 ½ droppers	¾ tsp	—	—
2 to 3 yr	27-35 lb	2 droppers	1 tsp	2 tablets	—
4 to 5 yr	36-43 lb	3 droppers	1 ½ tsp	3 tablets	1 ½ tablets
6 to 8 yr	44-62 lb	—	2 tsp	4 tablets	2 tablets
9 to 10 yr	63-79 lb	—	2 ½ tsp	5 tablets	2 ½ tablets
11 yr	80-89 lb	—	3 tsp	6 tablets	3 tablets
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† Consult with physician before administering to children under the age of 2 years.  
Dosage may be given every 4 hours as needed but not more than 5 times daily.  
How Supplied:  
Drops: Each 0.8 ml dropper contains 80 mg (1.23 grains) acetaminophen.  
Syrup: Each 5 ml teaspoon contains 160 mg (2.46 grains) acetaminophen.  
Chewables: Regular tablets contain 80 mg (1.23 grains) acetaminophen each. Double strength tablets contain 160 mg (2.46 grains) acetaminophen each.  
\* If child is significantly under- or overweight, dosage may need to be adjusted accordingly.  
The weight categories in this chart are designed to approximate effective dose ranges of 10-15 milligrams per kilogram.  
(Current Pediatric Diagnosis and Treatment, 8th ed. CH Kempe and HK Silver, ed. Lange Medical Publications: 1984, p. 1079)  
LA-1451-2-88 © 1988, Bristol-Myers U.S. Pharmaceutical and Nutritional Group • Evansville, Indiana 47721 U.S.A.  
© 1988, Bristol-Myers Pharmaceutical and Nutritional Group.

You are a marketing manager for a small manufacturing firm. This graph shows your company's sales over the last three years. Given the seasonal pattern shown on the graph, predict the sales for Spring 1985 (in thousands) by putting an "x" on the graph.



# Typical literacy items, by difficulty level

## Daily self-maintenance in modern literate societies

NALS difficulty level (& scores)	% US adults peaking at this level			Simulated everyday tasks National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS), 1993)
	Prose	Docu	Quant	
<b>5</b> (375-500)	3%	3%	4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use calculator to determine cost of carpet for a room (Q)</li> <li>Use table of information to compare 2 credit cards (D)</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> (325-375)	17%	15%	17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use eligibility pamphlet to calculate SSI benefits (Q)</li> <li>Explain difference between 2 types of employee benefits (P)</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> (275-325)	32%	31%	31%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calculate miles per gallon from mileage record chart (Q)</li> <li>Write brief letter explaining error on credit card bill (P)</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> (225-275)	27%	28%	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine difference in price between 2 show tickets (Q)</li> <li>Locate intersection on street map (D)</li> </ul>
<b>1</b> (0-225)	21%	23%	22%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total bank deposit entry (Q)</li> <li>Locate expiration date on driver's license (P)</li> </ul>

Source: Data from Kirsch, I. S., Jungeblut, A., Jenkins, L., and Kolstad, A. (1993/2002). *Adult literacy in America: A first look at the findings of the National Adult Literacy Survey*. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs93/93275.pdf>

Patients with lower literacy need more *cognitive support* to master the same task

NALS Literacy Level	<u>Extra</u> cognitive support required	% of US adult population (non-institutionalized)*
1 (lowest)	Strong	23
2**	Moderate	28
3-5	Minimal	49

\*As of 1993. Source: Source: Data from Kirsch, I. S., Jungeblut, A., Jenkins, L., and Kolstad, A. (1993/2002). *Adult literacy in America: A first look at the findings of the National Adult Literacy Survey*. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs93/93275.pdf>

\*\*Level 2 is usually the target population for “low-literacy” interventions.

# What makes some items more difficult?

## “Information processing complexity”

(National Adult Literacy Survey, 1993/2002)

NALS difficulty level (scores)	Three scales, same results			
	Prose	Docu	Quant	
5 (375-500)	3%	3%	4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use calcula</li><li>Use table o</li></ul>
4 (325-375)	17%	15%	17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use eligibil</li><li>Explain diff</li></ul>
3 (275-325)	32%	31%	31%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Calculate n</li><li>Write brief</li></ul>
2 (225-275)	27%	28%	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determine</li><li>Locate inte</li></ul>
1 (0-225)	21%	23%	22%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Total bank c</li><li>Locate exp</li></ul>

### Elements of “process complexity”

- number of features to match
- level of inference
- abstractness of info
- distracting information

Not reading per se, but “problem solving”

Source: Data from Kirsch, I. S., Jungeblut, A., Jenkins, L., and Kolstad, A. (1993/2002). *Adult literacy in America: A first look at the findings of the National Adult Literacy Survey*. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs93/93275.pdf>

# Readability doesn't make a complex task easy

→ To be or not to be, that is the question.



|

Ingredients of readability:

**ASW**: Average syllables per word

**ASL**: Average words per sentence

$$206.835 - (84.6 * \text{ASW}) - (1.015 * \text{ASL})$$

$$(0.39 * \text{ASL}) + (11.8 * \text{ASW}) - 15.59$$

A screenshot of a 'Readability Statistics' dialog box. It contains three sections: 'Counts', 'Averages', and 'Readability'. The 'Counts' section shows 10 words, 32 characters, 1 paragraph, and 1 sentence. The 'Averages' section shows 1.0 sentences per paragraph, 10.0 words per sentence, and 3.0 characters per word. The 'Readability' section shows 0% passive sentences, 100.0 Flesch Reading Ease, and 1.2 Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. There is an 'OK' button at the bottom right.

Readability Statistics	
<b>Counts</b>	
Words	10
Characters	32
Paragraphs	1
Sentences	1
<b>Averages</b>	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.0
Words per Sentence	10.0
Characters per Word	3.0
<b>Readability</b>	
Passive Sentences	0%
Flesch Reading Ease	100.0
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	1.2
OK	

# Task #1—Underline sentence saying how often to give the medicine

## Pediatric Dosage Chart

**Recommend**  
ALCOHOL-FREE  
ASPIRIN-FREE  
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Ronald McDonald Children's Charities<sup>®</sup>

### Pediatric Dosage Chart Drops, Syrup, & Chewables

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11 yr	80-89 lb	—	3 tsp	6 tablets	3 tablets
12 yr and older	90 lb & over	—	3-4 tsp	6-8 tablets	3-4 tablets

\* Consult with physician before administering to children under the age of 2 years.

**Dosage may be given every 4 hours as needed but not more than 5 times daily.**

#### How Supplied:

Drops: Each 0.8 ml dropper contains 80 mg (1.23 grains) acetaminophen.

Syrup: Each 5 ml teaspoon contains 160 mg (2.46 grains) acetaminophen.

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The weight categories in this chart are designed to approximate effective dose ranges of 10-15 milligrams per kilogram.

(Current Pediatric Diagnosis and Treatment, 8th ed, CH Kempe and HK Silver, ed. Lange Medical Publications: 1984, p. 1079)

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- One piece of info
- Simple match
- But lots of irrelevant info

### Caution!

Can train people to do this task, but not all possible tasks like it

# Task #1—Underline sentence saying how often to give the medicine

## Pediatric Dosage Chart

*Recommend*

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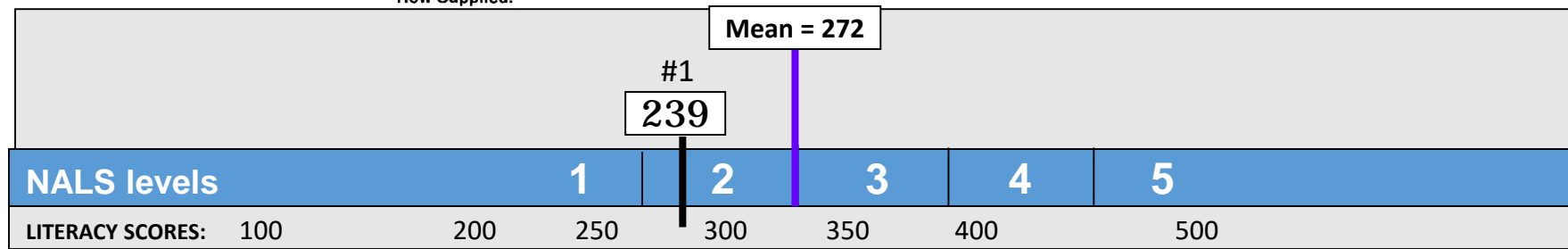
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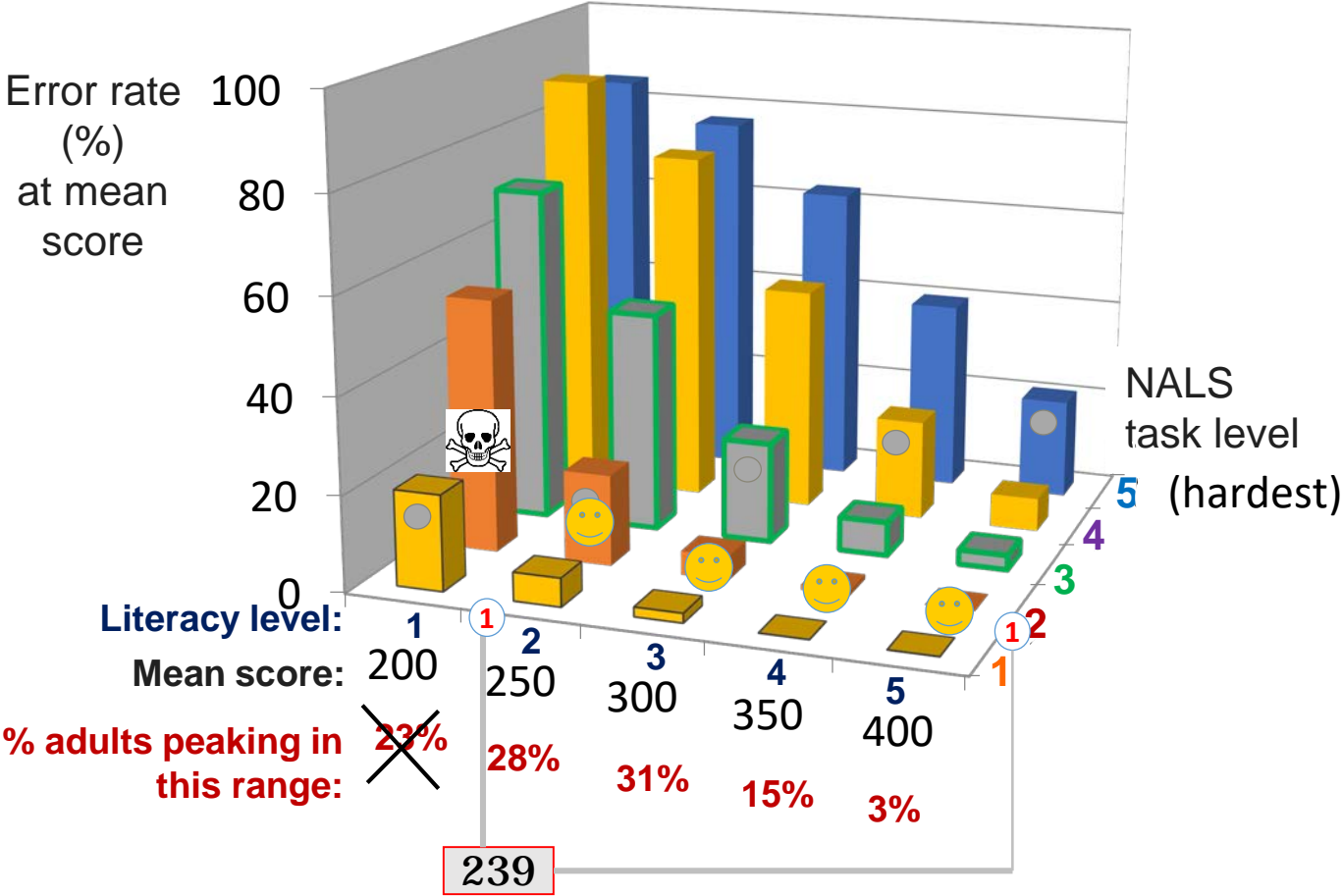
Dosage may be given every 4 hours as needed but not more than 5 times daily.

How Supplied:



- One piece of info
- Simple match
- But lots of irrelevant info

# How difficult was item #1?





#3—Your child is 11 years old and weighs 85 pounds.  
How many 80 mg tablets can you give in 24-hr period?

- Multiple features to match
- Two-step task
- Infer proper math operation
- Select proper numbers to use
- Ignore the most obvious but incorrect number
- Calculate the result

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*Recommend*

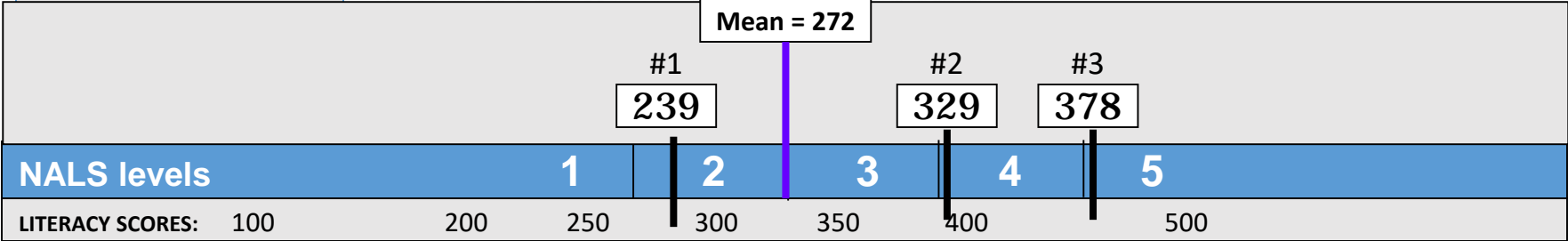
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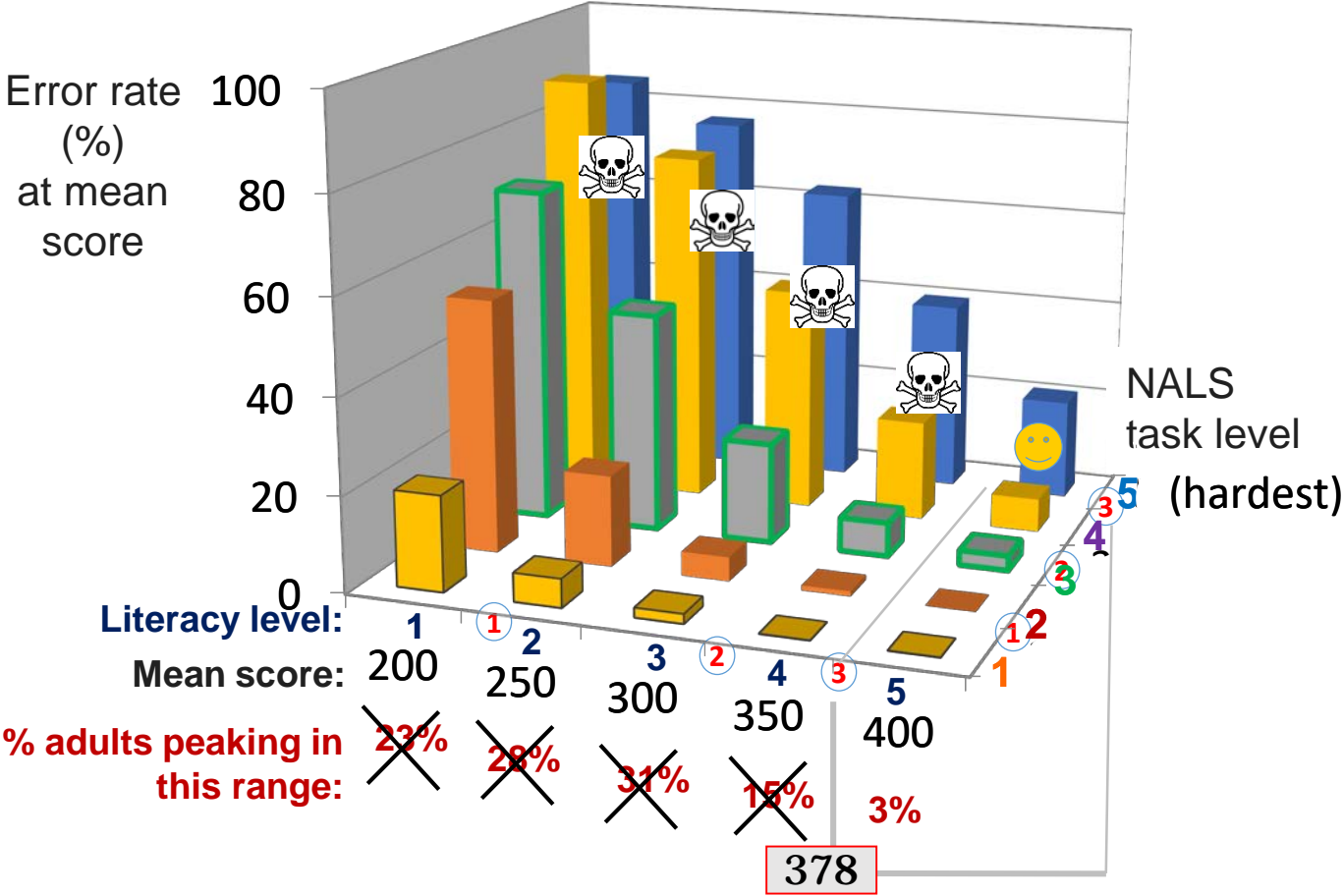
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Dosage may be given every 4 hours as needed but not more than 5 times daily.  
How Supplied.



# How difficult was item #3?

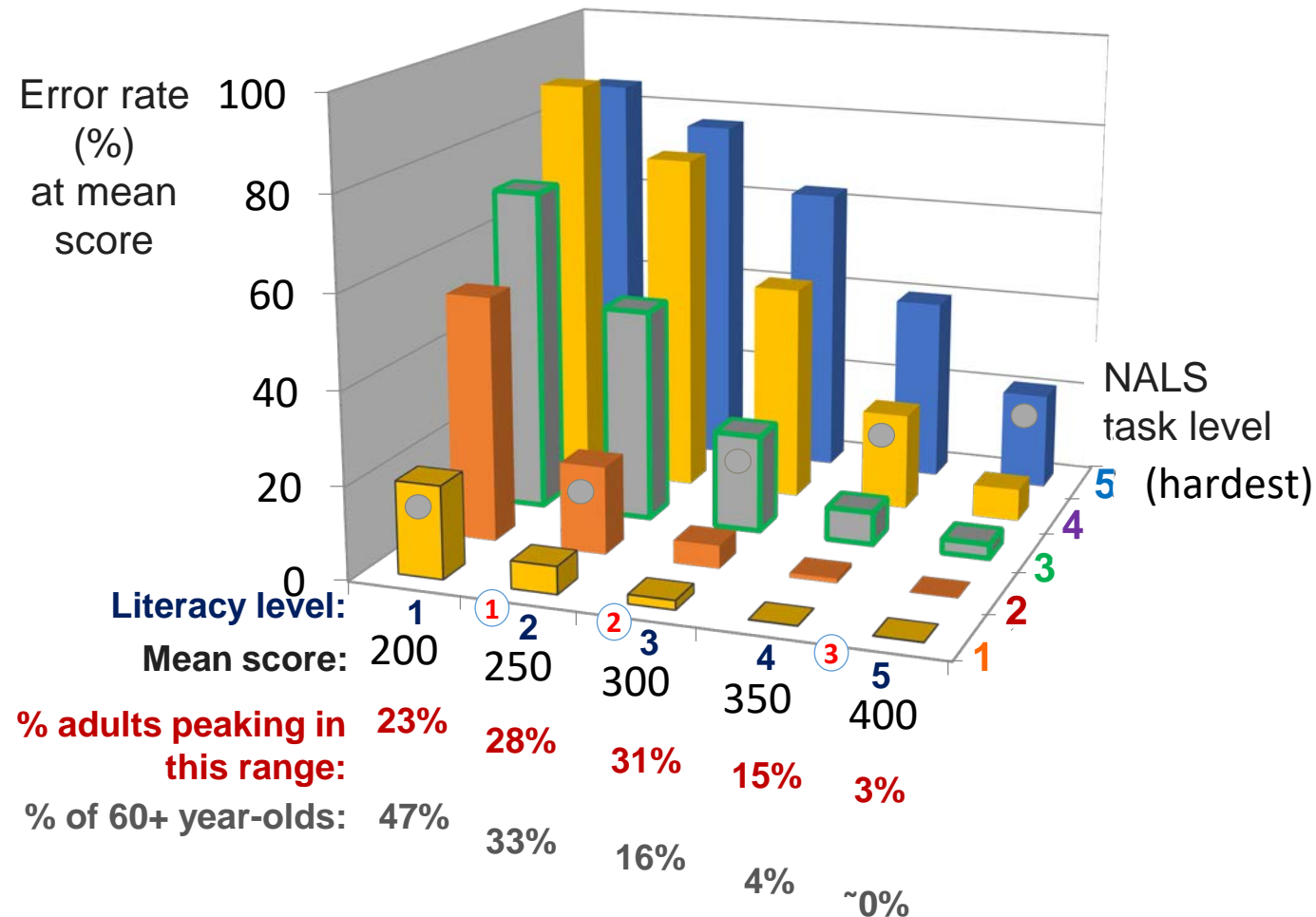


# Complexity & aging



"Okay your father  
managed to get a mouse.  
Now how do we use it?"

# Seniors are at much greater risk for low literacy





Prevention is key. Prevention is a cognitive process.



 **RoSPA**

*The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Royal Oak Centre, Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey CR2 2UR*

HS CP9

How many  
hazards can  
you spot?

**Figure 4.4. RoSPA hazard spotting picture**

Source: Reason, J. (1990). *Human error*. Cambridge: Cambridge University



# Lista de Glucosa

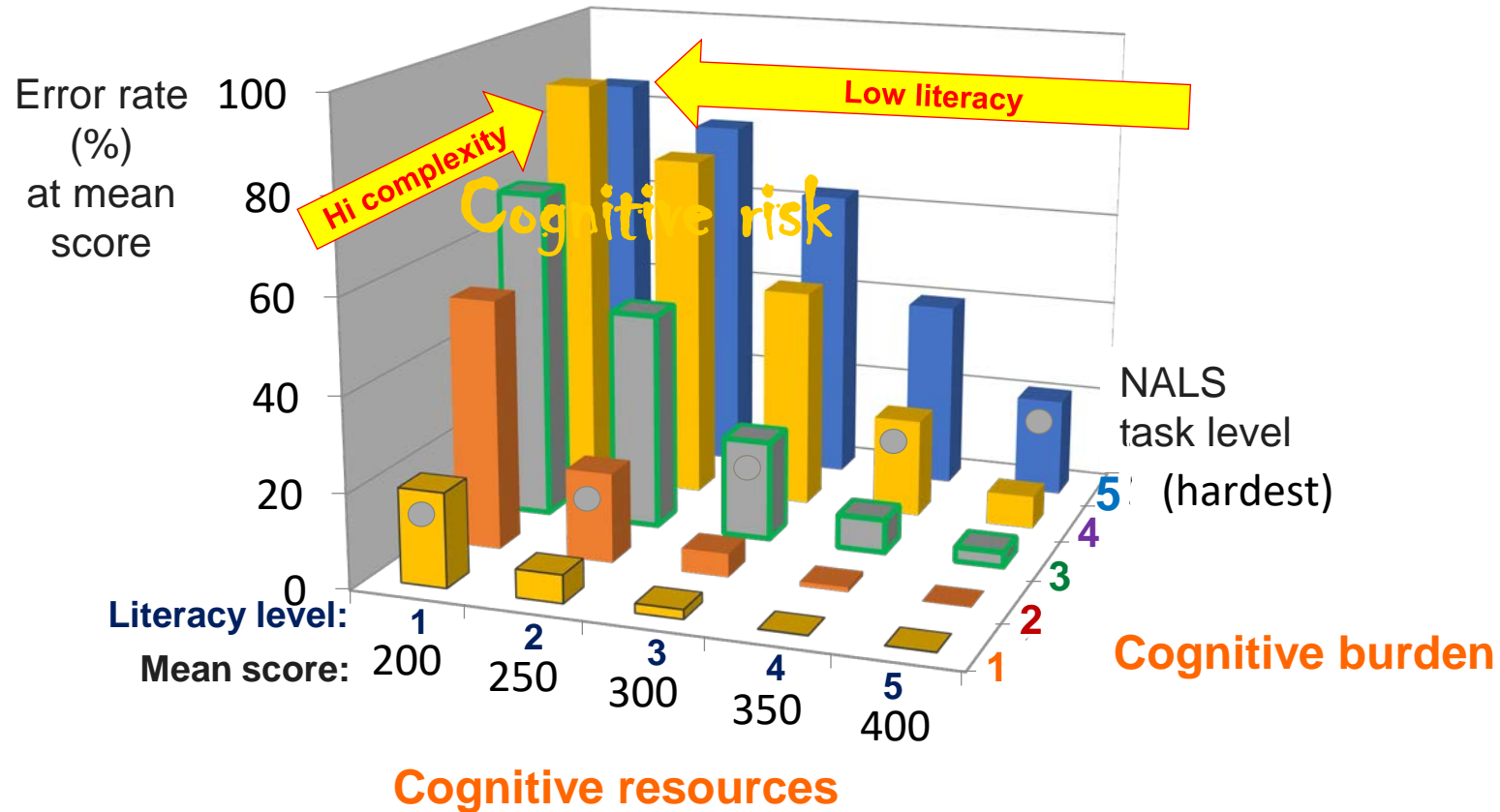
Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha	Hora	Numero de glucosa	Otra informacion
2016			
5-3		112	6-18 6:52 108
5-4	7:05	124	6-19 6:56 110
5-5		116	6-20 7:58 99
5-6	7:07	121	6-21 12:08 150
5-7	7:20	109	6-22 6:58 146
5-8	7:12	110	6-23 7:05 109
5-9	8:39	102	6-24 6:55 126
5-10			6-25 7:13 112
5-11	6:55	107	6-26 7:03 108
5-12	7:05	118	6-27 8:23 149
5-13	7:03	121	6-28
5-14	7:00	132	6-29
5-15	7:10	121	6-30
5-16	7:05	185	7-9 6:49 122
5-17	6:45	129	7-10 7:06 130
5-18	6:56	124	7-11 6:58 192
5-19	6:59	113	7-12 7:47 126
5-20	6:54	114	7-13 6:58 125
5-21	7:00	113	7-14 7:02 136
5-22	7:14	122	7-15 6:50 130
5-23	7:14	106	7-16 6:52 121
5-24	8:15	104	7-17 7:02 126
5-25	6:55	128	7-18 8:21 127
5-26	6:55	107	7-19 7:39 139
5-27	6:58	120	7-20 7:06 109
5-28	6:41	118	7-21 6:59 126
5-29	6:50	111	7-22 6:57 123
5-30	10:43	106	7-23 6:56 107
5-31	9:48	113	7-24 7:14 130
6-1	7:56	116	7-25 8:13 136
6-2	6:51	114	
6-3	7:01	106	
6-4	7:03	129	
6-5	6:59	115	
6-6	6:21	110	
6-7	9:13	118	
6-8	6:50	113	
6-9	7:01	112	
6-10	6:52	111	
6-11	6:56	103	
6-12	6:52	92	
6-13	7:31	125	
6-14	8:38	106	
6-15	6:49	102	
6-16	6:57	119	
6-17	6:56	110	

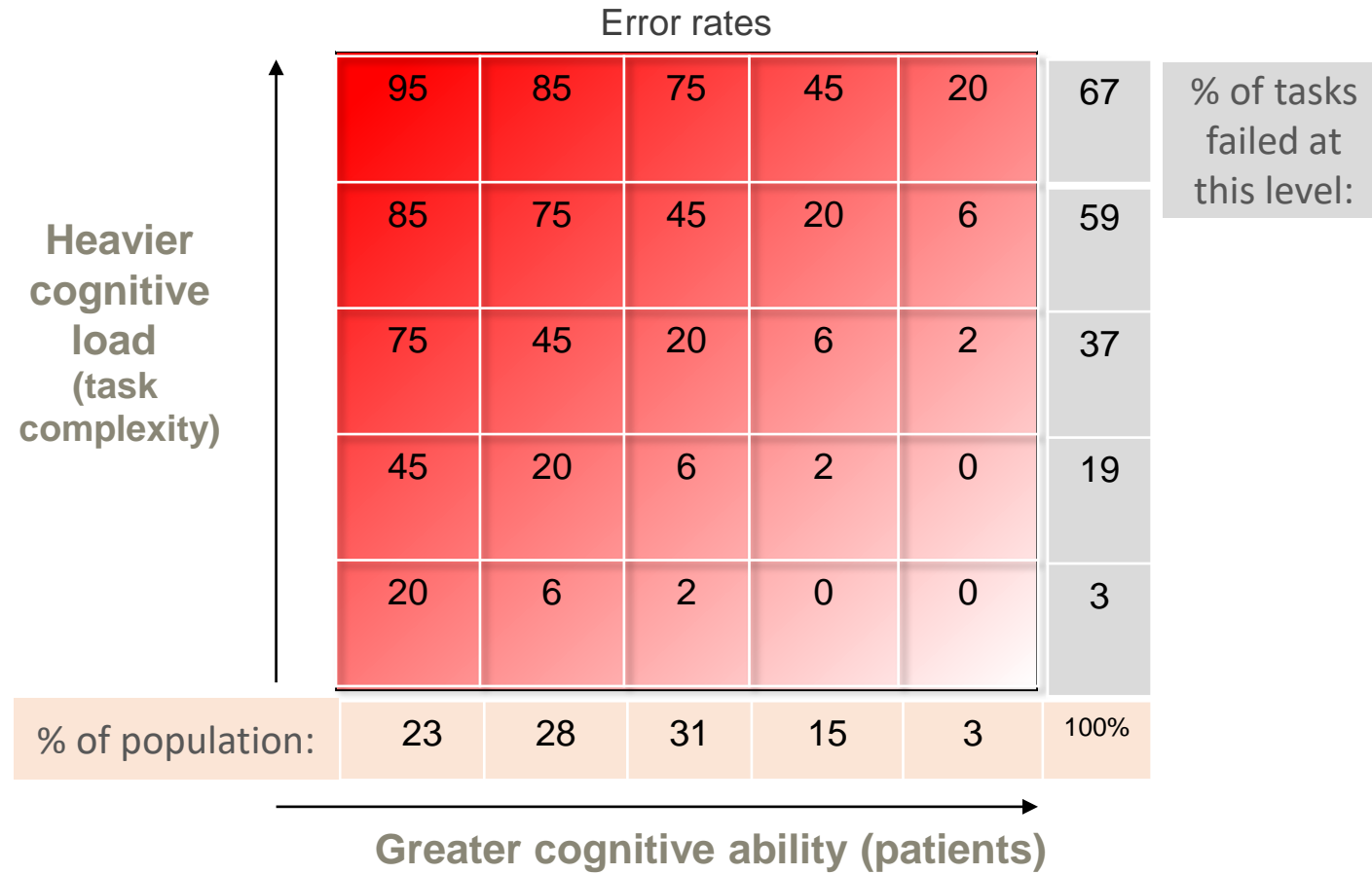
KS 9/15



# Matrix of cognitive risk for predicting patient errors



## 2-D version of patient risk



**P** Probability of patient error (non-adherence)

# Common critical DSM errors

## Recall top 3 “precipitating factors”

	<u>% of ED visits for IHE</u>
1. Meal-related misadventure	46%
2. Unintentionally took wrong insulin product	22%
3. Unintentionally took wrong dose/confused units	12%

National Estimates of Insulin-Related Hypoglycemia  
and Errors Leading to Emergency Department  
Visits and Hospitalizations

Andrew I. Geller, MD; Nadine Shehab, PharmD, MPH; Maribeth C. Lovegrove, MPH; Scott R. Kegler, PhD;  
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*JAMA Intern Med.* 2014;174(5):678-686

# Common critical errors

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1. Meal-related misadventure	46%
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What went wrong?

Insights from “near misses”

National Estimates of Insulin-Related Hypoglycemia  
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# 1. Meal-related misadventures

- Took insulin, but

- did not eat

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #51: Careful Listening Saves Lives

I reviewed her recent episode with her again, stating "so you ate your dinner, and then you passed out..." at which point she interrupted with "no, I did not eat my dinner, I HAD it, it was right in front of me on the table, and then I passed out...." The conclusion was that she had a severe hypoglycemic reaction because she delayed her dinner.

- did not eat enough carbs (only a salad)

- did not count carbs

## Basal/Bolus or is it Bolus/Basal or just Bolus/Bolus?

during her visit, I asked her to demonstrate how to calculate basal and bolus insulin, how to draw up her insulin, and how to inject using her own supplies. I was completely surprised when.... based her dose upon her prevailing blood glucose without regard to her food.

- counted carbs incorrectly—e.g., used weight grams rather than carb grams

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #11: Label Literacy

The patient had erroneously calculated a higher insulin dose based on weight grams not carb grams. Luckily, he experienced no hypoglycemia.

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #60: Helping Patients Decipher Nutrition Labels

I asked him where he got the amount of carbohydrate in a particular food. It turns out he was using the weight of the food in grams listed at the top of the food label (e.g., 56 grams), rather than the amount listed next to Total Carbohydrates (24 g).

## 2. Unintentionally took wrong insulin

- Used up “leftover” insulin

### Educating Elderly Patients

she had been using the short-acting analog that was prescribed. However, the previous week she had come across an unopened bottle of a Humulin mix which she did not want to waste so decided to use it in her pump.

### All Insulins Not the Same

The patient's wife had not filled the new prescription for the regular insulin

She had the Lantus insulin which he was on prior to his hospitalization, and she wanted to use that insulin before purchasing any more. She was using Lantus for the sliding scale dosage

- Mixed up bottles for bolus and basal insulins

### What's Hiding in that Insulin Box?

The patient had been using the two insulins together for about two years... When she brought them in everything seemed okay until our intern noticed that the bottles were switched in the boxes...The patient told us that it was easier for her to hold onto the bottles for dosing if she left them in the box and did not notice that she had switched them when she had taken them out to pop off the safety tops.

- Used bolus at times when should use basal insulin

- Failed to stop old insulin when changed to new one

### Changing Medications

At a recent support group meeting, a patient raised his hand and told me that he had been prescribed both Lantus and Levemir, and was taking them both at night.

patients had been switched from Lantus to Levemir due to issues with weight, and it was assumed he understood that he would no longer be taking Lantus.

# 3. Unintentionally took wrong dose

- Split or chewed time release pills

## "Do Not Crush, Chew or Cut"

In one case an elderly patient was prescribed Glucotrol XL to treat elevated blood sugars. This is a specially formulated medication that releases an entire day's supply of the medication slowly over a 24-hour period. The pill was too large for the woman to swallow, so she chewed it. She soon complained of feeling dizzy, weak, listless, and lethargic. Chewing the drug caused it to be released all at once, causing dangerously low blood glucose levels, which could have been fatal....

- Based dose on wrong factor

## Patient's Method of Figuring Meal-time Insulin Doesn't Quite Work

In reporting his dosing he stated that after he checked his glucose before each meal he took the "first two numbers of the result," and made that his dosage for meal-time insulin. For example, if the glucose reading was 240, he would take 24 units of Humalog.

was the only thing that made sense to me that I could remember."...

## Medication Safety Alert

A second patient also had mysteriously low blood glucose levels while using her pump. The pump has a bolus dosing "wizard" that allows patients to enter their blood glucose and the amount of carbohydrate grams they've eaten.

patient was entering the measured blood glucose into the carbohydrate field instead of the number of carbohydrates eaten. For example, 220 was entered in the carbohydrate field instead of 60 grams.

- Administered dose improperly

## New FlexTouch Pens Not the Same as the Old

She was administering Levemir, 60 units, with a FlexPen. She said that she just dialed the dose to the maximum it would allow her as she knew it would only dial to 60 units. She did not confirm the dose visually.... I knew that her next refill would probably be the FlexTouch pen, which dials to 80 units. I reiterated the importance of a visual confirmation



# Identifying sources of DSM error to improve patient adherence

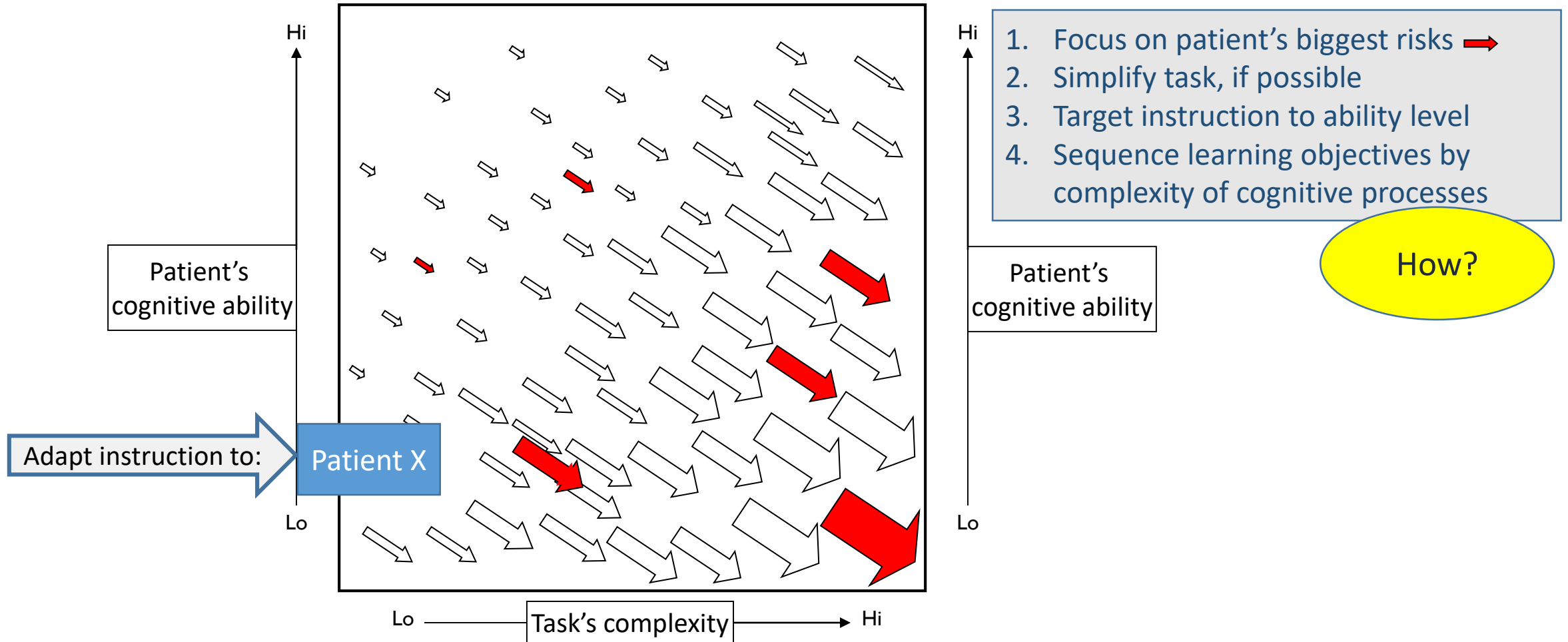
- What was the patient's error of omission or commission?
- What are the cognitive demands of the task(s)?
- Does the patient have any functional limitations that increase the risk of error?
- How can the misperformed task be simplified (e.g., fewer steps)?
- How would you use Bloom's cognitive taxonomy of learning objectives to reduce the patient's risk of making such errors?

# Commonalities in patient errors

- Treated unlikes as interchangeable (e.g., different insulins)
- Did not grasp relevance of key distinctions
- Performed only one step of multi-step task
- Performed one or more steps incorrectly
- Did not coordinate timing of essential tasks
- Did not notice when things amiss
- Lacked basic skills and knowledge we often take for granted

**Elemental cognitive errors**

# 4-part strategy for cognitively accessible DSMES



# Bloom's Taxonomy of Cognitive Learning Objectives

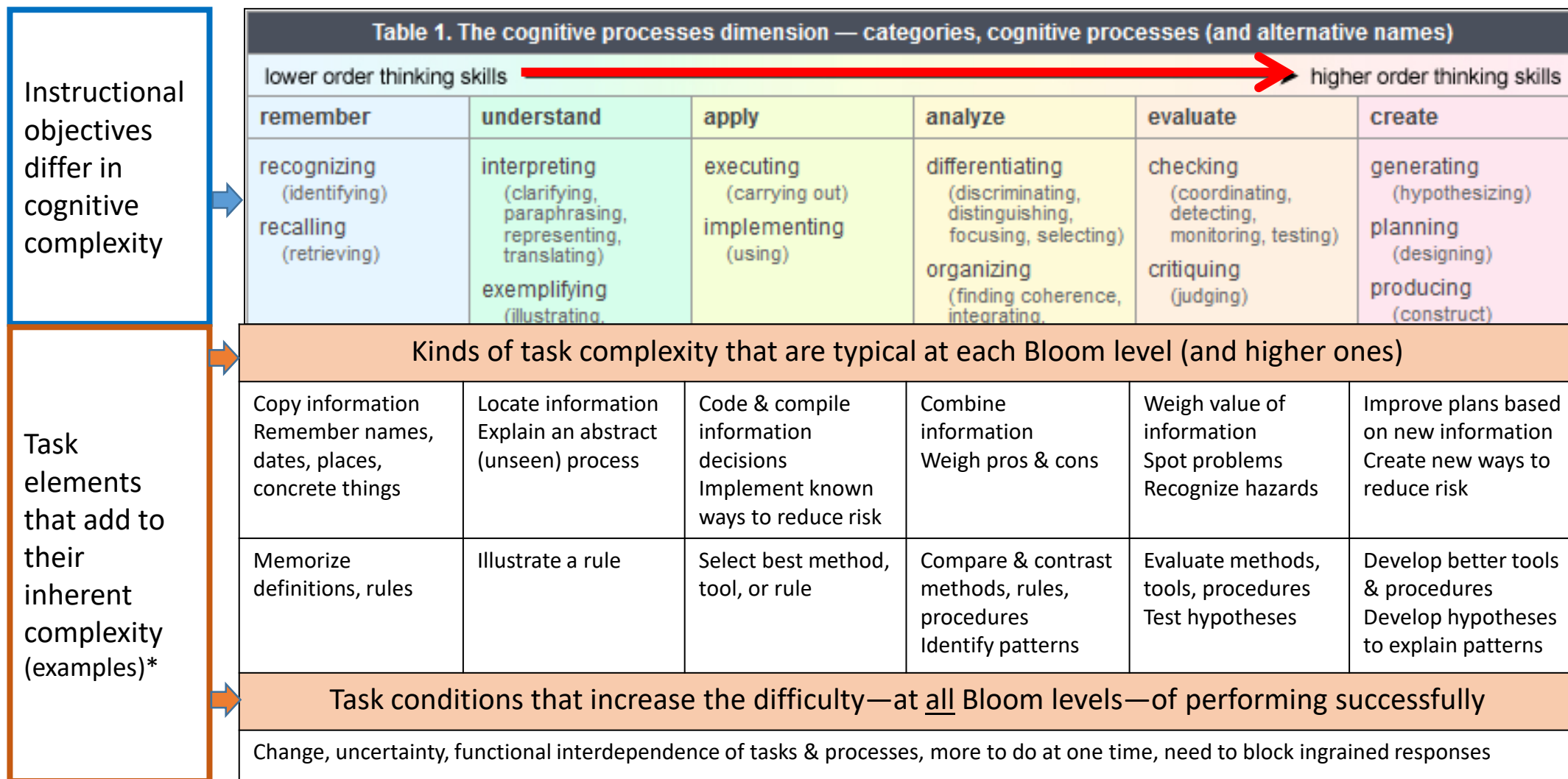
(2001 revision)

Bloom's levels are a *continuum* of cognitive complexity

Table 1. The cognitive processes dimension — categories, cognitive processes (and alternative names)					
lower order thinking skills			higher order thinking skills		
remember	understand	apply	analyze	evaluate	create
recognizing (identifying) recalling (retrieving)	interpreting (clarifying, paraphrasing, representing, translating) exemplifying (illustrating, instantiating) classifying (categorizing, subsuming) summarizing (abstracting, generalizing) inferring (concluding, extrapolating, interpolating, predicting) comparing (contrasting, mapping, matching) explaining (constructing models)	executing (carrying out) implementing (using)	differentiating (discriminating, distinguishing, focusing, selecting) organizing (finding coherence, integrating, outlining, parsing, structuring) attributing (deconstructing)	checking (coordinating, detecting, monitoring, testing) critiquing (judging)	generating (hypothesizing) planning (designing) producing (construct)

(Table 1 adapted from Anderson and Krathwohl, 2001, pp. 67–68.)

# What makes learning tasks inherently more complex at higher Bloom levels?



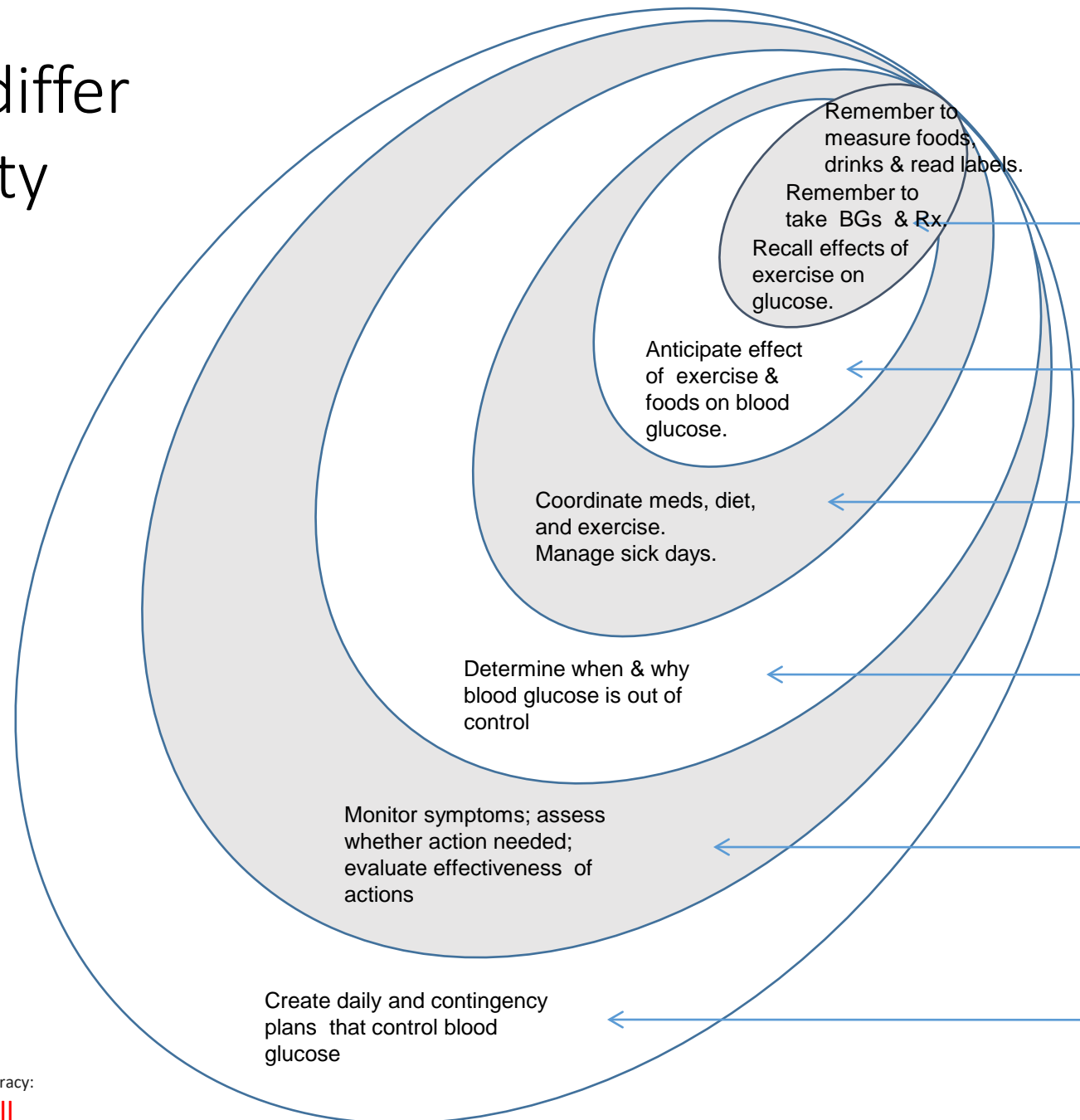
\*See Tool 4; Gottfredson, L. S. (1997). Why *g* matters: The complexity of everyday life. *Intelligence*, 24(1), 79-132.

## Checklist for assessing cognitive burdens in learning and doing self-care

Check all items that apply to your educational material or plan.

Major sources of task complexity		
Needless complexity	Inherent (inescapable) complexity	
	Increases difficulty beginning at this Bloom level	Increases difficulty at all Bloom levels
<b>Poor writing</b>	<b>Remember</b>	<b>Change</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Written for wrong audience	<input type="checkbox"/> Recall key facts	<input type="checkbox"/> Circumstances change
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses passive voice	<b>Understand</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Situation not as expected
<input type="checkbox"/> Not concise, wordy	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognize operation of unseen physical processes	<input type="checkbox"/> Situation changing rapidly
<input type="checkbox"/> Awkward, confusing sentences	<input type="checkbox"/> Explain timing & sequencing of interdependent tasks	<input type="checkbox"/> New & evolving knowledge
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses big words when simple ones will do	<input type="checkbox"/> Correctly interpret specialized terms & concepts	<input type="checkbox"/> New opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses abstract ideas when concrete ones OK	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify relevant similarities and differences	<input type="checkbox"/> New risks
<input type="checkbox"/> Specialized terms not explained	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipate lag times	<input type="checkbox"/> New rules
<input type="checkbox"/> Abbreviations not explained	<b>Apply</b>	<b>Uncertainty</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers not explained	<input type="checkbox"/> Use familiar procedures in familiar situations	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambiguity
<input type="checkbox"/> Information not put in context	<input type="checkbox"/> Calculate amounts	<input type="checkbox"/> Novelty
<b>Poor selection of information</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Select appropriate tool or procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpredictability
<input type="checkbox"/> Unnecessary background info	<input type="checkbox"/> Carry out all steps in a procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate information
<input type="checkbox"/> Too much theory	<input type="checkbox"/> Carry out steps in proper order & at proper time	<input type="checkbox"/> Inexact relation of means to ends
<input type="checkbox"/> Visuals not used when would clarify text	<input type="checkbox"/> Respond quickly to unexpected problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain or unknown outcomes
<input type="checkbox"/> Visuals are irrelevant or confusing	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate interdependent tasks	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequent false alarms
<input type="checkbox"/> Little or no "to do" advice	<input type="checkbox"/> Make if-then decisions (use decision tree)	<input type="checkbox"/> Harm not visible
<input type="checkbox"/> "To do" advice not specific	<b>Analyze</b>	<b>Functional interdependence</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> No way given to get more information	<input type="checkbox"/> Adjust solutions to fit evolving problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Processes interdependent
<b>Poor organization of information</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Update knowledge independently	<input type="checkbox"/> Tasks conflict (tradeoffs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Main point not clear at outset	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify potential causes	<input type="checkbox"/> Unintended effects (side effects)
<input type="checkbox"/> Little or no chunking of ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> Detect relationships & patterns	<b>More to do</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Chunking not logical or systematic	<input type="checkbox"/> Weigh pros & cons	<input type="checkbox"/> More information to consider
<input type="checkbox"/> Content does not match headings	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrate multiple sources of information	<input type="checkbox"/> More tasks to coordinate
<input type="checkbox"/> Too few headings	<input type="checkbox"/> Pick out most important information	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adequate time to do them
<input type="checkbox"/> Headings not informative	<input type="checkbox"/> Predict results of interdependent processes	<input type="checkbox"/> Complex system to control
<input type="checkbox"/> Lists not bulleted	<b>Evaluate (against an external standard)</b>	<b>Need to block ingrained responses</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor results	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdated knowledge
	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify problem situations quickly	<input type="checkbox"/> Misconceptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Detect anomalies	<input type="checkbox"/> Bad habits
	<input type="checkbox"/> Detect hazards	<input type="checkbox"/> Expecting the usual in new situations
	<input type="checkbox"/> Spot signs and symptoms	
	<b>Create</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan ahead	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Create contingency plans	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Combine information to create something new	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop hypotheses to explain results	
<b>Eliminate needless burdens</b>	<b>Teach basics before the more complex</b>	<b>Anticipate errors</b>

# DSM tasks differ in complexity



## Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives (cognitive domain)\*

### *Simplest tasks*

#### 1. Remember

recognize, recall,  
Identify, retrieve

#### 2. Understand

paraphrase, summarize,  
compare, predict, infer

#### 3. Apply

execute familiar task,,  
apply procedure to  
unfamiliar task

#### 4. Analyze

distinguish, focus, select,  
integrate, coordinate

#### 5. Evaluate

check, monitor, detect  
inconsistencies, judge  
effectiveness

#### 6. Create

hypothesize, plan, invent,  
devise, design

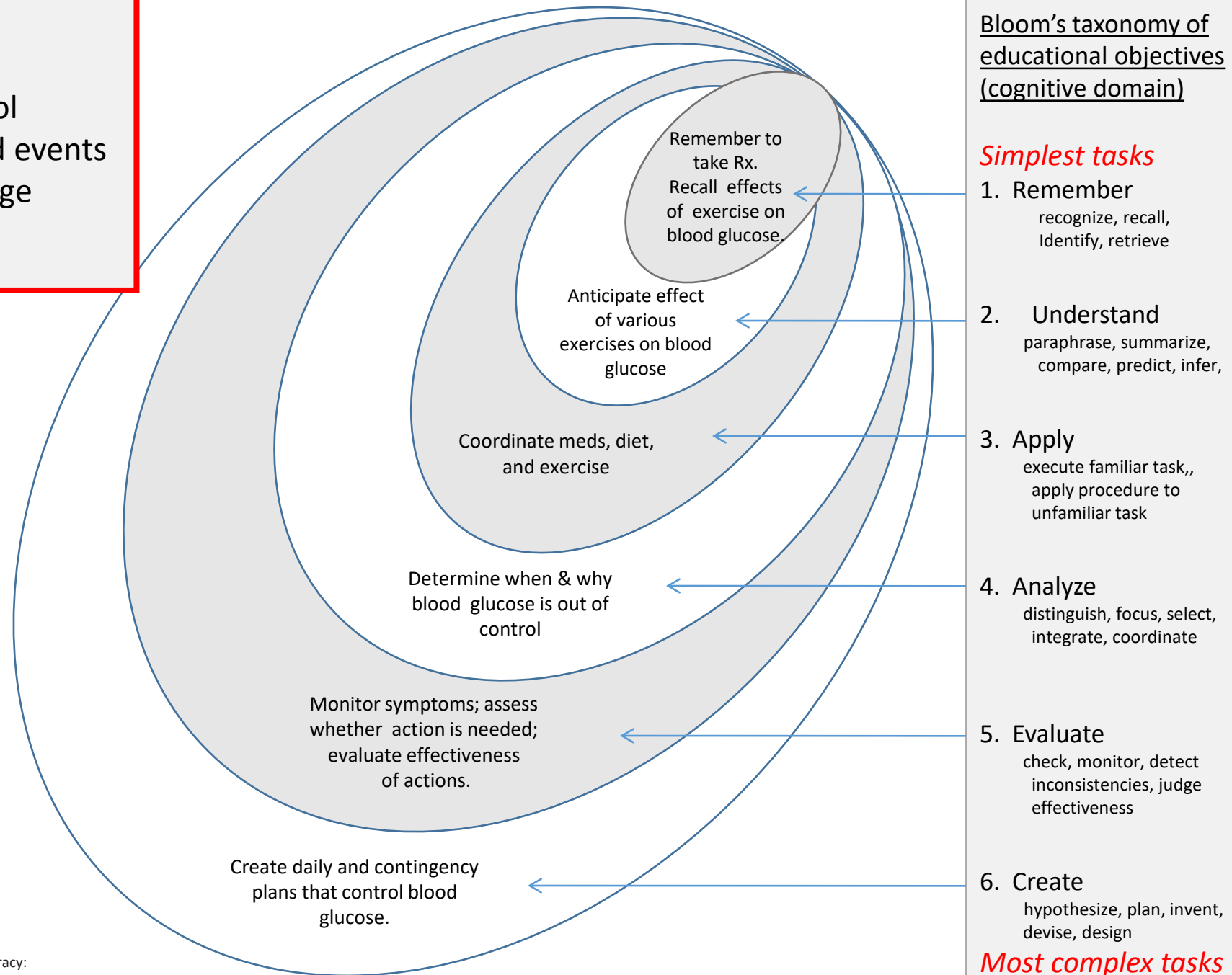
### *Most complex tasks*

\*Revised 2001: Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. *A taxonomy for learning, teaching, and assessing: A revision of Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives*. NY: Addison Wesley Longman.



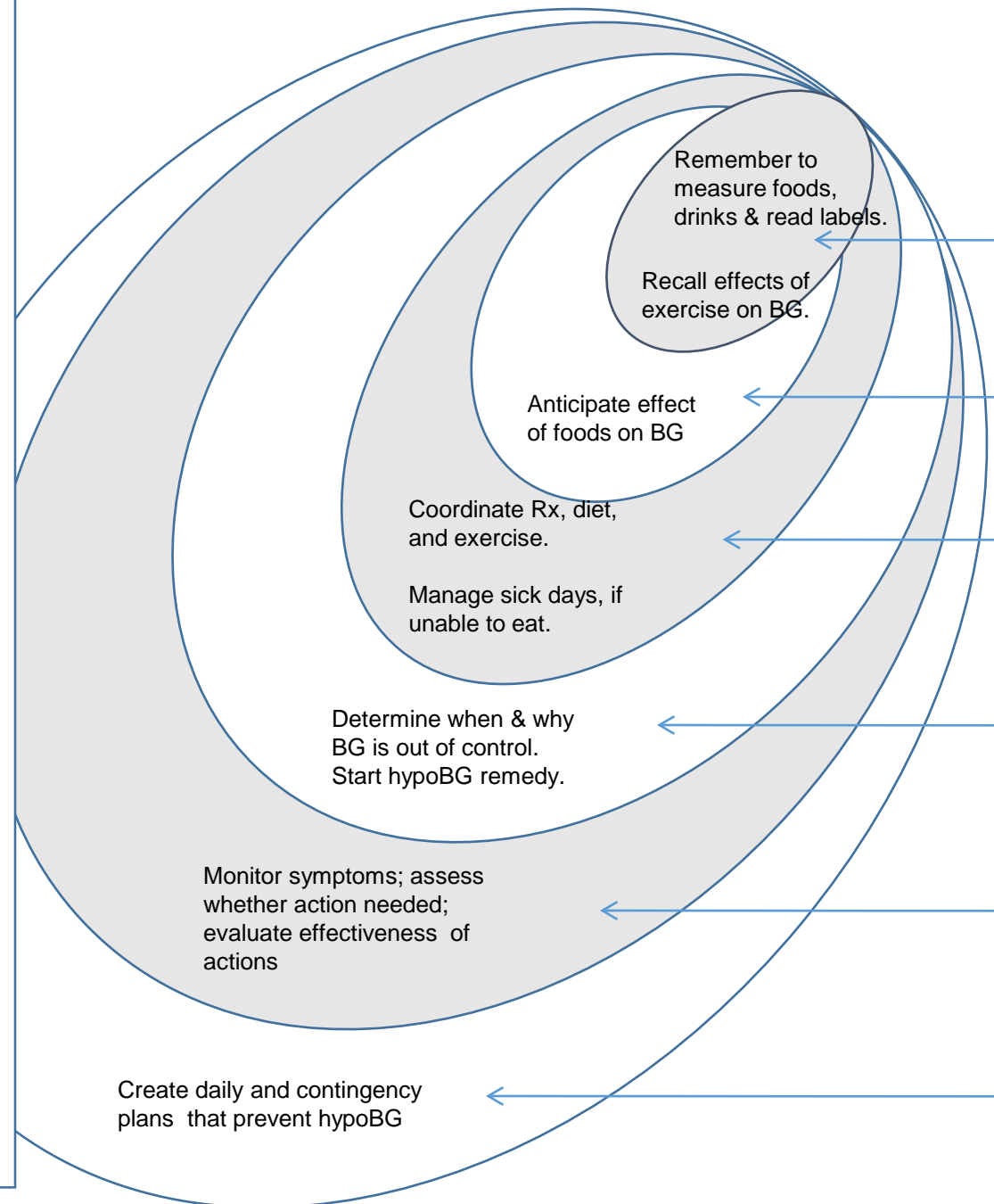
## DSM Goals

- Keep BG under control
- Deal with unexpected events
- Prevent and/or manage complications



## Instructional strategy—minimize unnecessary cognitive load

- Teach essential DSM tasks first, one at a time
- Sequence instruction from simple to complex ideas & skills
- Adjust speed and abstractness of instruction to accommodate individual's learning needs
- **Never** assume that something is “simple” or obvious
- Confirm mastery before moving on
- Don't squander individual's cognitive resources by teaching non-essential skills and content, using too-complex materials, etc.



## Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives (cognitive domain)\*

### *Simplest tasks*

#### 1. Remember

recognize, recall, identify, retrieve

#### 2. Understand

paraphrase, summarize, compare, predict, infer

#### 3. Apply

execute familiar task,, apply procedure to unfamiliar task

#### 4. Analyze

distinguish, focus, select, integrate, coordinate

#### 5. Evaluate

check, monitor, detect inconsistencies, judge effectiveness

#### 6. Create

hypothesize, plan, invent, devise, design

### *Most complex tasks*

\*Revised 2001: Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. A taxonomy for learning, teaching, and assessing: A revision of Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives. NY: Addison Wesley Longman.

What are we asking the patient to learn and do?  
And how cognitively complex are these mental tasks?

A collection of 20 cognitive task terms arranged in a circular pattern, likely representing a taxonomy of mental tasks. The terms are: Calculate, Check, Coordinate, Design, Identify, Integrate, Interpret, Judge effectiveness, Memorize, Recognize, Predict effects, Plan, Measure, Recognize, Implement, Hypothesize, Find pattern, Detect problems, Classify, and Calculate. The terms are arranged in a circular pattern, with some terms appearing more than once (e.g., Recognize, Calculate).

Calculate

Check

Coordinate

Design

Identify

Integrate

Interpret

Judge effectiveness

Memorize

Recognize

Predict effects

Plan

Measure

Recognize

Implement

Hypothesize

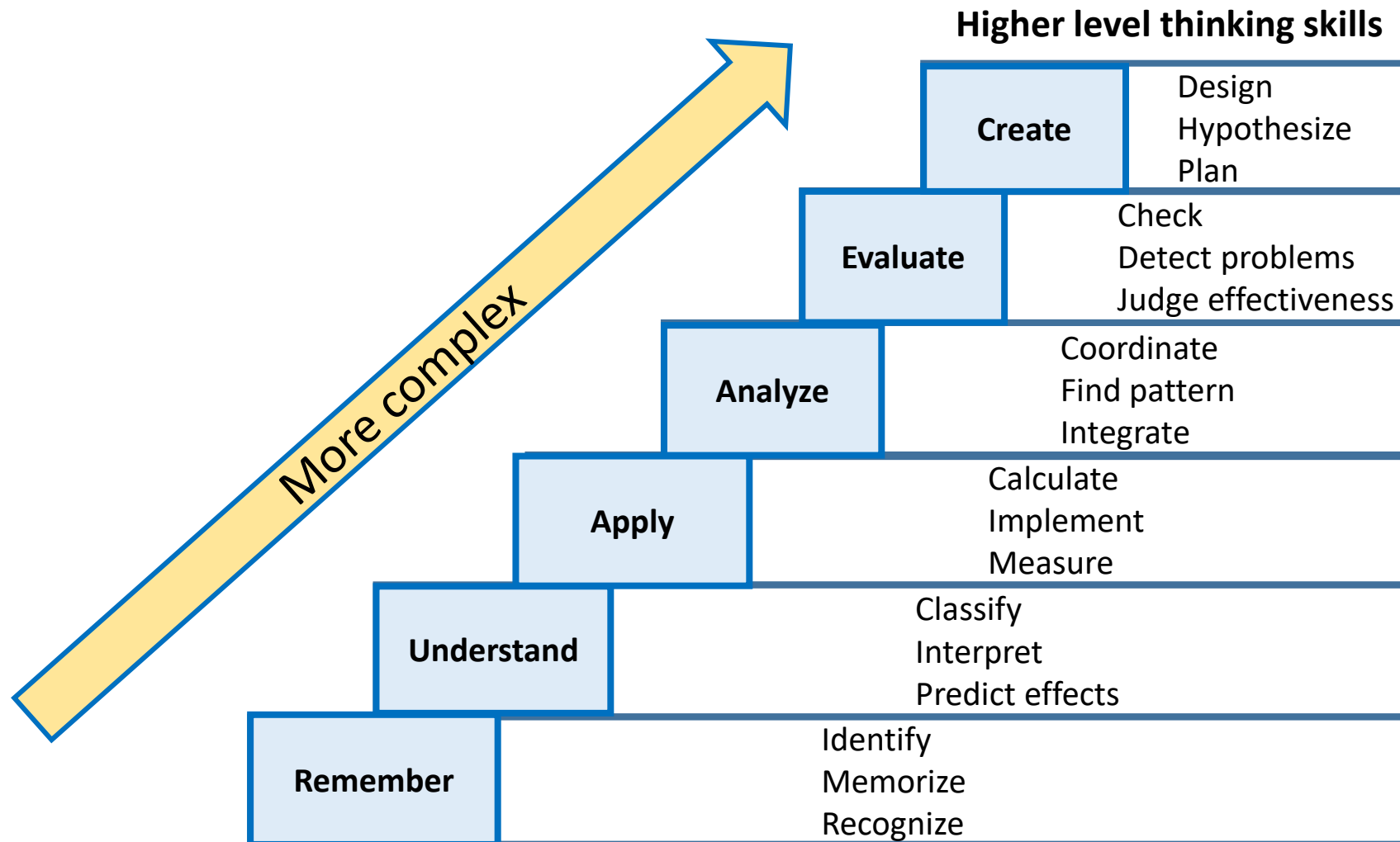
Find pattern

Detect problems

Classify

Calculate

What are we asking the patient to learn and do?



ASSESSMENT TOOL 4

Checklist for assessing cognitive burdens in learning and doing self-care

Check all items that apply to your educational material or plan.

Major sources of task complexity		
Needless complexity	Inherent (inescapable) complexity	
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<b>Poor writing</b>	<b>Remember</b>	<b>Change</b>
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	<b>Create</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan ahead	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Create contingency plans	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Combine information to create something new	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop hypotheses to explain results	
<b>Eliminate needless burdens</b>	<b>Teach basics before the more complex</b>	<b>Anticipate errors</b>

# Checklist for assessing patient's cognitive resources, help, & drains in learning and doing self-care tasks

Check all items that apply to this patient or group.

Cognitive resources available to patient			
Own cognitive ability level (under favorable conditions)			
Single Item Literacy Screen			
<i>"How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy?"</i>			
Patient's response (check one)	Literacy level	Extra cognitive help needed	Risk of critical error
<input type="checkbox"/> Always	Very low	Strong	Very high
<input type="checkbox"/> Often Sometimes	Low	Moderate	High
<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely Never	Moderate to high	Minimal	Occasional
Cognitive help from other people			
Family			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative (confuse, burden, discourage, misinform, etc.)		
Neighborhood & friends			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative		
Support groups			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative		
Health care providers			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative		

Cognitive drains likely to interfere with patient fully using available cognitive resources	
Emotional	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anxiety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family conflict
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fear
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frustration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shame
<input type="checkbox"/>	Worry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
Physical	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol & drugs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hunger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleep deprived
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
Situational	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distractions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interruptions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of privacy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise pollution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temperature too hot or cold
<input type="checkbox"/>	Time pressure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Difficult work or family schedule
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

# Outline of topics

1. Cognitive accessibility of DSMES information and instruction: What is it?
2. Needless complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and eliminate it
3. Inherent complexity in DSM tasks: Tools to identify and reduce it
4. **Examples of reducing complexity in the AADE7™**



# Group Activities



# AADE7™ Self-Care Behaviors

Healthy Eating

Being Active

Monitoring

Taking Medication

Problem Solving

Reducing Risks

Healthy Coping

# Educational status of DSME Participants:

Recall

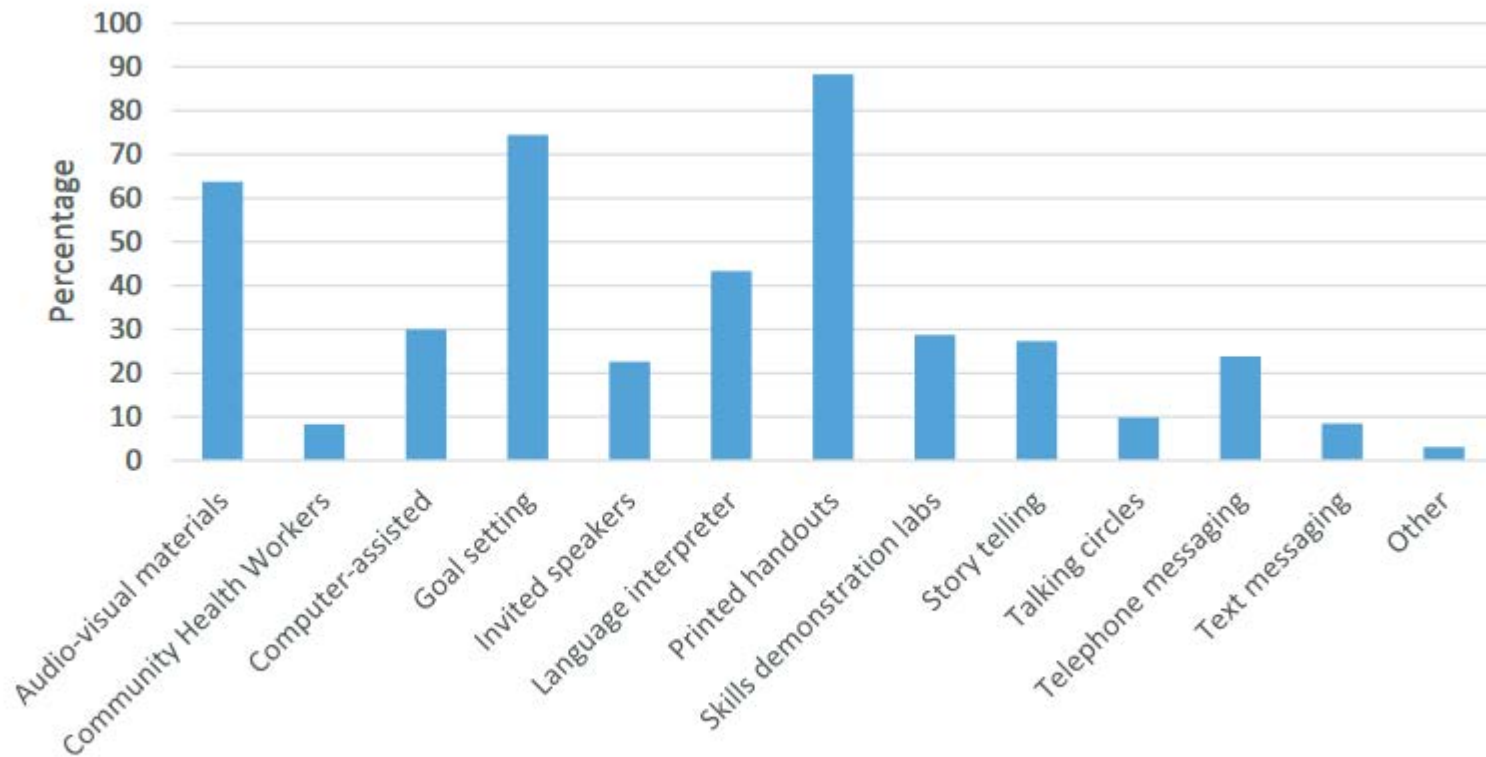
- some college (17%)
- high school or GED degree (61%)
- some high school (13%)

(nearly identical to the proportions reported in 2012  
(61%, 16%, 13%, respectively).

Table 1

Disciplines and CDE/BC-ADM Credentials of 2015 National Practice Survey Participants (in Percentages).

Discipline	Respondents	Has CDE Credential	Has BC-ADM Credential
Nurse	50.3	87	4
Dietitian	35.1	91	2
Pharmacist	6.1	73	11
Other	6.2	76	10
All		86	5
Abbreviations: BC-ADM, Board Certified–Advanced Diabetes Management; CDE, Certified Diabetes Educator.			



**Figure 4.** Resources used in diabetes self-management programs.

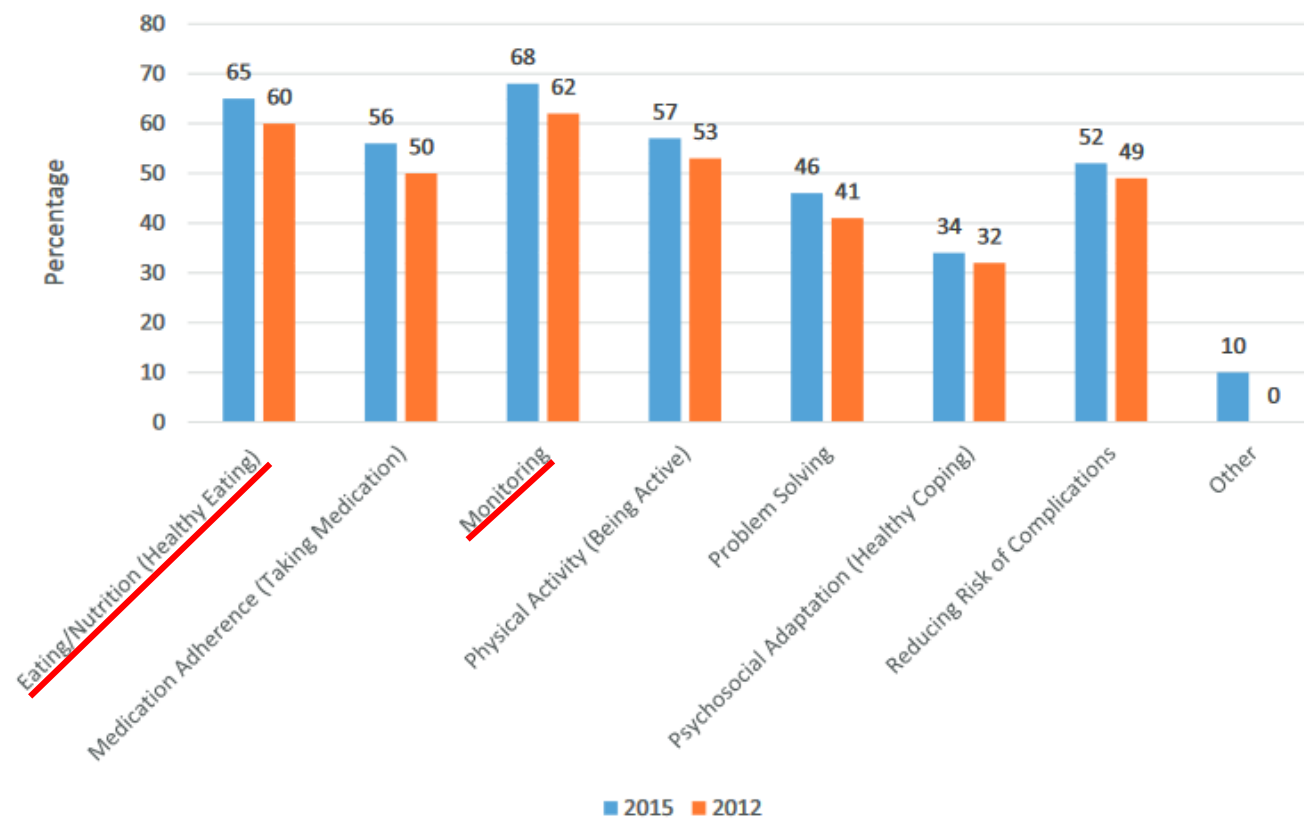


Figure 5. Comparison of reported behavioral strategy engagement in 2012 and 2015.

# Healthy Eating





# 1. Meal-related misadventures

- Took insulin, but

- did not eat

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #51: Careful Listening Saves Lives

I reviewed her recent episode with her again, stating "so you ate your dinner, and then you passed out..." at which point she interrupted with "no, I did not eat my dinner, I HAD it, it was right in front of me on the table, and then I passed out...." The conclusion was that she had a severe hypoglycemic reaction because she delayed her dinner.

- did not eat enough carbs (only a salad)

- did not count carbs

## Basal/Bolus or is it Bolus/Basal or just Bolus/Bolus?

during her visit, I asked her to demonstrate how to calculate basal and bolus insulin, how to draw up her insulin, and how to inject using her own supplies. I was completely surprised when.... based her dose upon her prevailing blood glucose without regard to her food.

- counted carbs incorrectly—e.g., used weight grams rather than carb grams

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #11: Label Literacy

The patient had erroneously calculated a higher insulin dose based on weight grams not carb grams. Luckily, he experienced no hypoglycemia.

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #60: Helping Patients Decipher Nutrition Labels

I asked him where he got the amount of carbohydrate in a particular food. It turns out he was using the weight of the food in grams listed at the top of the food label (e.g., 56 grams), rather than the amount listed next to Total Carbohydrates (24 g).

# Healthy Eating:

## The Nutrition Label

Labels have different formats.

Does this increase or decrease complexity?

## Macaroni and Cheese

# Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 cup (228g)

Servings Per Container 2

### Amount Per Serving

**Calories** 250      **Calories from Fat** 110

### % Daily Value\*

**Total Fat** 12g      **18%**

Saturated Fat 3g      **15%**

**Cholesterol** 30mg      **10%**

**Sodium** 470mg      **20%**

**Total Carbohydrate** 31g      **10%**

Dietary Fiber 0g      **0%**

Sugars 5g

**Protein** 5g

Vitamin A      **4%**

Vitamin C      **2%**

Calcium      **20%**

Iron      **4%**

\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.  
Your Daily Values may be higher or lower depending on  
your calorie needs:

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

## Cookie Dough

# Nutrition Facts

Serv. Size: 1 33/100 oz (38g), Servings: 36,  
Amount Per Serving: **Calories** 170, Fat Cal. 80, **Total Fat** 9g (13%DV), Sat. Fat 3g (15%DV), *Trans* Fat 0g, **Cholest.** 15mg (5%DV), **Sodium** 135mg (6%DV),  
**Total carb.** 21g (7%DV), Fiber 1g (3%DV), Sugars 12g, **Protein** 3g, Vitamin A (0%DV), Vitamin C (0%DV), Calcium (0%DV), Iron (6%DV). Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

granulated sugar, flour (wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), whole eggs, butter, vanilla, cinnamon, baking soda, salt. May contain traces of peanuts.

Peanut Butter: Flour (wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, iron, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), peanut butter, granulated sugar, margarine (palm oil, water, soybean oil, salt, vegetable mono & diglycerides, soy lecithin, sodium benzoate (a preservative), citric acid,

[www.dough-to-go.com/Ingredients and Nutritional.htm](http://www.dough-to-go.com/Ingredients and Nutritional.htm)

Total carb. 21g (7%DV), Fiber 1g (3%DV), Sugars 12g, Protein 3g, Vitamin A (0%DV), Vitamin C (0%DV), Calcium (2%DV), Iron (4%DV). Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

## Nutrition Facts

Serv. Size: 1 33/100 oz (38g), Servings: 36,  
Amount Per Serving: **Calories** 170, Fat Cal. 80, **Total Fat** 9g (13%DV), Sat. Fat 3g (15%DV), *Trans* Fat 0g, **Cholest.** 15mg (5%DV), **Sodium** 135mg (6%DV),  
**Total carb.** 21g (7%DV), Fiber 1g (3%DV), Sugars 12g, **Protein** 3g, Vitamin A (0%DV), Vitamin C (0%DV), Calcium (0%DV), Iron (6%DV). Percent Daily Values

Information  
is better

- In chart  
form

But:

- Confusing  
technical  
symbol.

Can you spot  
it?

Amount per serving			
Nutrition Facts			
Amount/serving	%DV*	Amount/serving	%DV*
Total Fat 8g	12%	Total Carb. 24g	8%
Serv. Size 1 croissant (57g)		Sat. Fat 3g	16%
Serv. Per Cont. 144		Fiber 1g	3%
Calories 190		Trans Fat 1.5g	
Fat Cal. 70		Sugars 3g	
		Cholest. 10mg	4%
		Protein 4g	
		Sodium 290mg	12%
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.			
Vitamin A 4% • Vitamin C 2% • Calcium 6% • Iron 8%			
INGREDIENTS: Enriched Wheat Flour(Unbleached Wheat Flour, Malted Barley Flour, Niacin, Reduced Iron, Potassium Bromate, Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Folic Acid), Water, Vegetable Shortening (Partially Hydrogenated Soybean and Cottonseed Oils, Soybean Oil, Soybean Lecithin with Mono- and Diglycerides, Vitamin A Palmitate), Butter, Sugar, Contains 2% or less of: Leavening(Yeast, Baking Powder [Sodium Bicarbonate, Cornstarch, Sodium Aluminum Phosphate, Calcium Sulfate, Monocalcium Phosphate]), Non-Fat Dry Milk, Salt, Dough Conditioner (Wheat Flour, DATEM, Dextrose, Soybean Oil, Ascorbic Acid, L-Cysteine, Azodicarbonamide(ADA), Calcium Stearoyl-2 Lactylate, Enzymes), Eggs, Artificial Flavor, Preservatives(Calcium Propionate, Potassium Sorbate, Citric Acid).			
ALLERGY INFORMATION:			
CONTAINS: Eggs, Milk, Soy, Wheat			

## Macaroni and Cheese

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 cup (228g)	
Servings Per Container 2	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 250	Calories from Fat 110
% Daily Value	
Total Fat 12g	18%
Saturated Fat 3g	15%
Cholesterol 30mg	10%
Sodium 470mg	20%
Total Carbohydrate 31g	10%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 5g	
Protein 5g	
Vitamin A	4%
Vitamin C	2%
Calcium	20%
Iron	4%
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your Daily Values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 60g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,300mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g

### Pros:

- Fewer items
- Single vertical list
- Major headings stand out

### Cons:

- Lots of irrelevant info
- Seemingly inconsistent info

# Current label

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g/About 21 pieces)	
Servings Per Container About 2	
Amount Per Serving	
<b>Calories</b> 170	Calories from Fat 110
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 11g	<b>17%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	<b>8%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 250mg	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 14g	<b>5%</b>
Dietary Fiber less than 1g	<b>2%</b>
Sugars 0g	
<b>Protein</b> 2g	
Vitamin A 2%	Vitamin C 0%
Calcium 0%	Iron 4%
Vitamin E 6%	Thiamin 4%
Riboflavin 2%	Niacin 4%
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> 2%	Phosphorus 2%
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g
Calories per gram:	
Fat 9	Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4



Handout

New label: What's different?

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
8 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>2/3 cup (55g)</b>
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 8g	<b>10%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	<b>5%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>14%</b>
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	<b>20%</b>
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 235mg	6%
<small>* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.</small>	

Nutrition Facts		
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g/About 21 pieces)		
Servings Per Container About 2		
Amount Per Serving		
<b>Calories</b> 170	Calories from Fat 110	
% Daily Value*		
<b>Total Fat</b> 11g		<b>17%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g		<b>8%</b>
Trans Fat 0g		
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg		<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 250mg		<b>10%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 14g		<b>5%</b>
Dietary Fiber less than 1g		<b>2%</b>
Sugars 0g		
<b>Protein</b> 2g		
Vitamin A 2% • Vitamin C 0%		
Calcium 0% • Iron 4%		
Vitamin E 6% • Thiamin 4%		
Riboflavin 2% • Niacin 4%		
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> 2% • Phosphorus 2%		
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:		
	Calories:	2,000    2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g    80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g    25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg    300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg    2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g    375g
Dietary Fiber		25g    30g
Calories per gram:		
Fat 9	•	Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>2/3 cup (55g)</b>
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 8g	<b>10%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	<b>5%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>14%</b>
Total Sugars 12g	
includes 10g Added Sugars	<b>20%</b>
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	<b>10%</b>
Calcium 260mg	<b>20%</b>
Iron 8mg	<b>45%</b>
Potassium 235mg	<b>6%</b>
* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.	

Does the new label

*simplify* the information

needed

to control carbohydrates ?

Nutrition Facts			
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g/About 21 pieces)			
Servings Per Container About 2			
Amount Per Serving			
<b>Calories</b> 170		Calories from Fat 110	
		% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 11g		<b>17%</b>	
Saturated Fat 1.5g		<b>8%</b>	
Trans Fat 0g			
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg		<b>0%</b>	
<b>Sodium</b> 250mg		<b>10%</b>	
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 14g		<b>5%</b>	
Dietary Fiber less than 1g		<b>2%</b>	
Sugars 0g			
<b>Protein</b> 2g			
Vitamin A 2%	•	Vitamin C 0%	
Calcium 0%	•	Iron 4%	
Vitamin E 6%	•	Thiamin 4%	
Riboflavin 2%	•	Niacin 4%	
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> 2%	•	Phosphorus 2%	
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:			
	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g
Calories per gram:			
Fat 9	•	Carbohydrate 4	• Protein 4

## Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives (cognitive domain)

### Simplest tasks

1. Remember  
recognize, recall, identify, retrieve
2. Understand  
paraphrase, summarize, compare, predict, infer,
3. Apply  
execute familiar task,, apply procedure to unfamiliar task
4. Analyze  
distinguish, focus, select, integrate, coordinate
5. Evaluate  
check, monitor, detect inconsistencies, judge effectiveness
6. Create  
hypothesize, plan, invent, devise, design

### Most complex tasks

Location of relevant CHO gms

Carb vs non-carb ??  
Sequence of label  
Total CHOs = imp;  
"Sugars" not = Total CHOs  
Volume vs wt

How many CHO gms in 1 serving?  
Subtract fiber gms from CHO gms

Distractors  
CHOs vs Fiber vs Fat

Part of meal vs OK snack ?  
CHOs in intended serving ?  
CHOs vs Fat/Chol vs Na

Plan a meal or snack

# Activity

- What actions are necessary, to use the label for carbohydrate information?
- How would you educate a patient to complete this task ?
- Use action verbs, Plain Language, & Bloom's taxonomy.

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>2/3 cup (55g)</b>
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 8g	<b>10%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20%
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 235mg	6%

\* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g/About 21 pieces)	
Servings Per Container About 2	
Amount Per Serving	
<b>Calories</b> 170	Calories from Fat 110
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 11g	<b>17%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	8%
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 250mg	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 14g	<b>5%</b>
Dietary Fiber less than 1g	2%
Sugars 0g	
<b>Protein</b> 2g	
Vitamin A 2%	Vitamin C 0%
Calcium 0%	Iron 4%
Vitamin E 6%	Thiamin 4%
Riboflavin 2%	Niacin 4%
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> 2%	Phosphorus 2%

\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Calories per gram:  
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4

Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives (cognitive domain)

### *Simplest tasks*

1. Remember, recognize, recall, Identify, retrieve
2. Understand, paraphrase, summarize, compare, predict, infer
3. Apply, execute familiar task, apply procedure to unfamiliar task
4. Analyze, distinguish, focus, select, integrate, coordinate
5. Evaluate, check, monitor, detect inconsistencies, judge effectiveness
6. Create, hypothesize, plan, invent, devise, design

### *Most complex tasks*

# Using the food label, for patients with diabetes

(Look at the package/container and .....)



# Using Bloom's taxonomy to identify cognitive demands on nutrition labels

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>2/3 cup (55g)</b>
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 8g	<b>10%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20%
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 235mg	6%

\* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g/About 21 pieces)	
Servings Per Container About 2	
Amount Per Serving	
<b>Calories</b> 170	Calories from Fat 110
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 11g	<b>17%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	8%
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 250mg	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 14g	<b>5%</b>
Dietary Fiber less than 1g	2%
Sugars 0g	
<b>Protein</b> 2g	
Vitamin A 2%	Vitamin C 0%
Calcium 0%	Iron 4%
Vitamin E 6%	Thiamin 4%
Riboflavin 2%	Niacin 4%
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> 2%	Phosphorus 2%

\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Calories per gram:  
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4

Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives:  
cognitive domain  
(Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001)

## Simplest tasks

### 1. Remember

recognize, recall,  
Identify, retrieve

- Locate "Serving size" on label
- Locate "Total CHO gms" on label

### 2. Understand

paraphrase, summarize,  
compare, predict, infer,

- Total CHO gms = relevant number
- "Sugars" gms  $\neq$  total CHO gms
- Gms after "Serving Size"  $\neq$  Total CHO gms
- % Daily Value CHO  $\neq$  Total CHO gms

### 3. Apply

execute familiar task,  
apply procedure to  
unfamiliar task

- Based on serving size, calculate number of "servings" to be consumed
- Calculate Total CHO gms in servings consumed (multiply number of intended servings by Total CHO gms in one serving)

### 4. Analyze

distinguish, focus, select,  
integrate, coordinate

- Analyze the amount of other nutrients to be limited (e.g., fat, sodium).

### 5. Evaluate

check, monitor, detect  
inconsistencies, judge  
effectiveness

- Judge whether the intended serving contains too much e.g., fat, sodium.

### 6. Create

hypothesize, plan, invent,  
devise, design

- Plan a meal and or snack with recommended amount of CHOs.
- Coordinate CHO gms with non-labeled foods & drinks

## Most complex tasks

# More Label Complexity



## Labeling that diverts attention from most relevant facts



Labeling that diverts attention from most relevant facts



# Grams vs. grams on label

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #11: Label Literacy

I am a dietitian working as a diabetes educator. I often work with patients on insulin, and teach insulin to carb ratios and correction factors....

Patients need to be able to read food labels and know portion size in order to dose their mealtime insulin correctly. I often get referred patients who have had some education about food choices and carbs and I help them determine these ratios.

I was reviewing a patient's food logs and insulin dose, and I questioned the amount of carbohydrate he had stated for a particular food item, as it seemed high. I quickly found out the patient was actually looking at the weight of the food item in grams instead of looking at Total Carbohydrates grams on the food label.

The patient had erroneously calculated a higher insulin dose based on weight grams not carb grams. Luckily, he experienced no hypoglycemia.

Now I make sure to point out to patients the difference in serving weight and Total Carbohydrates, and to use only the value next to Total Carbohydrates (adjusting for serving size).

He has not been the only patient who gets confused by this.

Marilyn Baker, MS, RD, CDE

### Take home message:

In addition to looking at weight grams patients often use the % of daily allowance as the amount of carbs they eat. And even the most experienced counter can make a big mistake. It is always good to remind your patients exactly what they should be looking for on the label each time you see them.

## Diabetes Disaster Averted #60: Helping Patients Decipher Nutrition Labels

I had a patient who came in for instruction on carbohydrate counting in order to dose his insulin based on his carbohydrate intake. I instructed him on the use of food lists and food labels. When the patient returned for follow-up, his doses of insulin did not correlate with the amount of carbohydrate in some of his foods....

I asked him where he got the amount of carbohydrate in a particular food. It turns out he was using the weight of the food in grams listed at the top of the food label (e.g., 56 grams), rather than the amount listed next to Total Carbohydrates (24 g). His blood sugars were still elevated, so luckily he had not experienced any hypoglycemia. We again reviewed how to read a food label, and the patient was able to calculate the correct amount of carbohydrate.

### Lesson learned:

*Never assume a patient knows how to read a food label. Now I point out the difference between the weight in grams and the total carbs.*

Marilyn Baker, MS, RD, CDE

## Macaroni and Cheese

# Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 cup (240g)  
Servings Per Container 2

Amount Per Serving

% Daily Value\*

Total Fat 15g

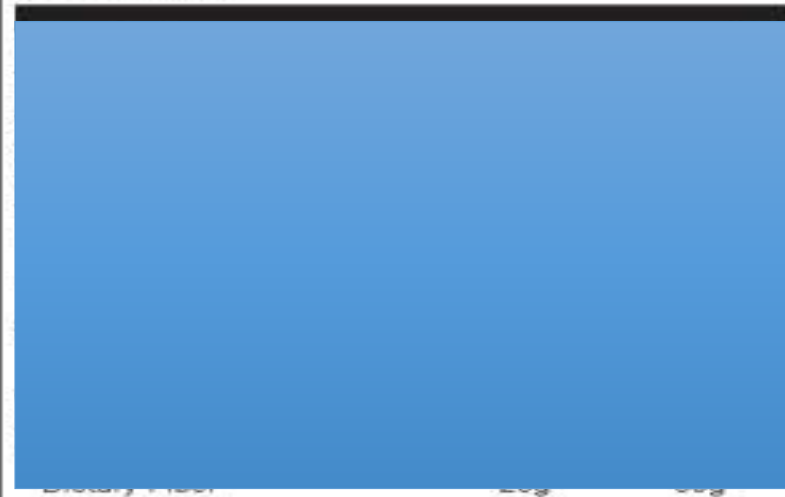
Total Sodium 10g

Total Carbohydrate 31g

Dietary Fiber 0g

Total Protein 10g

Vitamin A



Distracting, non-relevant information makes a task *more* complex.

*Eliminating* non-relevant information makes a task *less* complex

# Milk label

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 cup (236ml)	
Servings Per Container 1	
Amount Per Serving	
<b>Calories</b> 120	Calories from Fat 45
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 5g	<b>8%</b>
Saturated Fat 3g	<b>15%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 20mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 120mg	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 11g	<b>4%</b>
Dietary Fiber 0g	<b>0%</b>
Sugars 11g	
<b>Protein</b> 9g	<b>17%</b>
Vitamin A 10% • Vitamin C 4%	
Calcium <b>30%</b> • Iron 0% • Vitamin D 25%	
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.	

Nutrition Facts		Amount/Serving	% DV*
Serving Size 1 piece (1.9g)		Total Fat 0g	0%
Servings 14		Sodium 0mg	0%
Calories <5		Total Carb. 1g	<1%
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.		Sugars 0g	
		Sugar Alcohol 1g	
		Protein 0g	
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.			
Not a significant source of other nutrients.			

**INGREDIENTS:** SORBITOL, GUM BASE, GLYCERIN, MANNITOL, XYLITOL, NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL FLAVORING; LESS THAN 2% OF: ACESULFAME POTASSIUM, ASPARTAME, BHT (TO MAINTAIN FRESHNESS), BLUE 1 LAKE, SOY LECITHIN AND YELLOW 5 LAKE. **PHENYLKETONURICS:** CONTAINS PHENYLALANINE; **ALLERGY INFORMATION:** CONTAINS SOY. 30% FEWER CALORIES THAN SUGARED GUM. CALORIE CONTENT OF THIS SIZE PIECE HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 5 TO 3 1/2 CALORIES.



## Sugar Free Chocolate Chip

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>		<b>Amount/Serving</b>	<b>%DV*</b>	<b>Amount/Serving</b>	<b>%DV*</b>
Serv. Size	3 Cookies (32g)	<b>Total Fat</b> 9g	<b>14%</b>	<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 20g	<b>7%</b>
Servings	About 5	Saturated Fat 3.5g	<b>18%</b>	Dietary Fiber 1g	<b>4%</b>
<b>Calories</b>	160	Trans Fat 0g		Sugars 0g	
Calories from Fat	80	<b>Cholesterol</b> less than 5mg	<b>1%</b>	Sugar Alcohol 7g	
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.		<b>Sodium</b> 130mg	<b>5%</b>	<b>Protein</b> 2g	
		Vitamin A 0% • Vitamin C 0% • Calcium 0% • Iron 6%			

**INGREDIENTS:** ENRICHED FLOUR (WHEAT FLOUR, NIACIN, REDUCED IRON, THIAMIN MONONITRATE [VITAMIN B<sub>1</sub>], RIBOFLAVIN [VITAMIN B<sub>2</sub>], FOLIC ACID), VEGETABLE OIL (SOYBEAN, PALM AND PALM KERNEL OIL WITH TBHQ FOR FRESHNESS), SUGAR FREE CHOCOLATE FLAVORED CHIPS (MALTITOL, CHOCOLATE PROCESSED WITH ALKALI, COCOA BUTTER, SOY LECITHIN, NATURAL FLAVOR), MALTITOL, LACTITOL, POLYDEXTROSE, MALTODEXTRIN, SORBITOL\*\*, CONTAINS TWO PERCENT OR LESS OF SALT, NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL FLAVOR, LEAVENING (BAKING SODA, SODIUM ACID PYROPHOSPHATE), EGG, SOY LECITHIN, XANTHAN GUM, SODIUM STEAROYL LACTYLATE, ACESULFAME POTASSIUM, CARAMEL COLOR, SUCRALOSE.

**\*\*EXCESS CONSUMPTION MAY HAVE A LAXATIVE EFFECT.**

**CONTAINS WHEAT, SOY, MILK AND EGG INGREDIENTS.  
MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF PEANUT AND TREE NUTS.**

**EXCHANGE INFORMATION:** 3 cookies = 1 carbohydrate and 2 fats exchange. The dietary exchanges are based on the *Exchange List for Meal Planning*, ©2003 by The American Diabetes Association, Inc., and The American Dietetic Association.

## Sugar Free Cookies

### *Shortbread*

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>		Amount Per Serving	%DV*	Amount Per Serving	%DV*
Serving Size	8 Cookies (30g)	<b>Total Fat</b> 5g	<b>8%</b>	<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 22g	<b>7%</b>
		Saturated Fat 1.5g	<b>8%</b>	Dietary Fiber 2g	<b>8%</b>
		Trans Fat 0g		Sugars 0g	
<b>Calories</b>	130	<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>	Sugar Alcohol 4g	
Calories from Fat	50	<b>Sodium</b> 140mg	<b>6%</b>	<b>Protein</b> 2g	
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.		Vitamin A 0%	•	Calcium 0%	•
		Vitamin C 0%	•	Iron 4%	
<b>INGREDIENTS:</b> ENRICHED FLOUR (WHEAT FLOUR, NIACIN, REDUCED IRON, VITAMIN B <sub>1</sub> [THIAMIN MONONITRATE], VITAMIN B <sub>2</sub> [RIBOFLAVIN], FOLIC ACID), SOYBEAN AND PALM OIL, SORBITOL*, MALTITOL, POLYDEXTROSE, MALTODEXTRIN, CONTAINS 2% OR LESS OF OAT FIBER, NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL FLAVORS, SALT, LEAVENING (BAKING SODA, SODIUM ACID PYROPHOSPHATE), WHEY PROTEIN CONCENTRATE, DATEM, SOY LECITHIN, ANNATTO EXTRACT FOR COLOR, XANTHAN GUM, ACESULFAME POTASSIUM, SUCRALOSE.					
*EXCESS CONSUMPTION MAY HAVE A LAXATIVE EFFECT.					
CONTAINS WHEAT, MILK AND SOY INGREDIENTS. MAY CONTAIN PEANUTS AND OTHER TREE NUTS.					



- Patients constantly need to compare products, to manage carbohydrates.
- How does this increase the task complexity ?

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 2 Servings Per Container: 2	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 340	Calories from Fat 140
% Daily Value *	
Total Fat 16	25.00 %
Saturated Fat 7	35.00 %
Cholesterol 25mg	8.00 %
Sodium 820mg	34.00 %
Total Carbohydrate 33g	11.00 %
Dietary Fiber 3g	
Sugars 2g	
Protein 15g	
Vitamin A	0.00 %
Vitamin C	0.00 %
Calcium	30.00 %
Iron	4.00 %
Not a significant source of Saturated Fat, Trans Fat, Cholesterol, Calcium or Iron.	
* The Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet, so your values may change depending on your calorie needs. The values here may not be 100% accurate because the recipes have not been professionally evaluated nor have they been evaluated by the U.S. FDA.	

Nutritional Information				
Serving Size: 1oz Servings Per Package: 1				
Amount Per Serving:				
Calories 300 Calories from Fat 50				
				% Daily Value*
Total Fat (g)	6	Cholesterol (mg)	20	7%
Saturated Fat (g)	4	Sodium (mg)	560	23%
Trans Fat (g)	0	Potassium (mg)	510	15%
Polyunsaturated Fat (g)	0	Total Carbohydrate (g)	48	16%
Monounsaturated Fat (g)	1	Dietary Fiber (g)	2	8%
Protein (g)	13	Sugars (g)	5	
Diet Exchanges 1 ½ Lean Meat 1 ½ Starch				
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.				
		Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less Than	65g	80g	
Sat Fat	Less Than	20g	25g	
Cholesterol	Less Than	300mg	300mg	
Sodium	Less Than	2,400mg	2,400mg	
Potassium	Less Than	3,500mg	3,500mg	
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g	
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g	
Nutritional information is subject to change. Please see label of product on store shelves for the most current information.				

**Nutritional Information**

Serving Size: 1oz  
Servings Per Package: 1

**Amount Per Serving:**

**Calories** 250  
**Calories from Fat** 45

				% Daily Value*
<b>Total Fat (g)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Cholesterol (mg)</b>	<b>40</b>	13%
Saturated Fat (g)	2	<b>Sodium (mg)</b>	<b>590</b>	25%
Trans Fat (g)	0	<b>Potassium (mg)</b>	<b>540</b>	15%
Polyunsaturated Fat (g)	1	<b>Total Carbohydrate (g)</b>	<b>33</b>	11%
Monounsaturated Fat (g)	1	Dietary Fiber (g)	3	12%
<b>Protein (g)</b>	<b>19</b>	Sugars (g)	6	

Diet Exchanges 1½ Lean Meat 1½ Starch

\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

	<b>Calories:</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Total Fat	Less Than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less Than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less Than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less Than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Potassium	Less Than	3,500mg	3,500mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Nutritional information is subject to change. Please see label of product on store shelves for the most current information.

**Grilled Chicken Bake****Nutrition Facts**

Serving Size 1 meal (369g)  
Servings Per Container 1

**Amount Per Serving**

**Calories** 480 **Calories from Fat** 190

	% Daily Value*
<b>Total Fat</b> 21g	32%
Saturated Fat 8g	40%
Trans Fat .5g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 60mg	20%
<b>Sodium</b> 900mg	38%
<b>Potassium</b> 450mg	13%
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 45g	15%
Dietary Fiber 6g	24%
Sugars 4g	

**Protein** 28g

Vitamin A 40%	Vitamin C 25%
Calcium 25%	Iron 10%
Riboflavin 20%	Niacin 15%
Folic Acid 20%	Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> 15%
Pantothenic Acid 20%	Phosphorus 40%
Magnesium 15%	Manganese 30%

Product formulations and packaging may change. For the most current information regarding a particular product, please refer to the product package.

## Hazelnut Liquid Creamer

### Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 tbsp (15mL)

#### Amount Per Serving

**Calories** 35      Calories From Fat 15

**% Daily Value\***

**Total Fat** 1.5g      **2%**

Saturated Fat 0g      **0%**

Trans Fat 0g

Polyunsaturated Fat 0g

Monounsaturated Fat 1g

**Cholesterol** 0mg      **0%**

**Sodium** 5mg      **0%**

**Total Carbohydrate** 5g      **2%**

Sugars 5g

**Protein** 0g

## Sugar Free Hazelnut Liquid

### Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 tbsp (15mL)

#### Amount Per Serving

**Calories** 15      Calories From Fat 10

**% Daily Value\***

**Total Fat** 1g      **2%**

Saturated Fat 0g      **0%**

Trans Fat 0g

Polyunsaturated Fat 0g

Monounsaturated Fat 1g

**Cholesterol** 0mg      **0%**

**Sodium** 10mg      **0%**

**Total Carbohydrate** 2g      **1%**

Sugars 0g

**Protein** 0g

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

Not a significant source of dietary fiber, sugar, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, and iron.

## Fat Free Hazelnut Liquid

### Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 tbsp (15mL)

#### Amount Per Serving

**Calories** 25      Calories From Fat 0

**% Daily Value\***

**Total Fat** 0g      **0%**

Saturated Fat 0g      **0%**

Trans Fat 0g

Polyunsaturated Fat 0g

Monounsaturated Fat 0g

**Cholesterol** 0mg      **0%**

**Sodium** 0mg      **1%**

**Total Carbohydrate** 5g      **2%**

Sugars 5g

**Protein** 0g

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

Not a significant source of dietary fiber, sugar, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, and iron.

# Reading food labels

Can you find the facts on a food label? Whether you are counting "carbs" or finding fats, the Nutrition Facts panel helps you know just what you're eating. Take a look at the label shown here and find the key facts.

### Serving size

The first thing to check on a label is the serving size. All of the nutrition facts listed on the label, such as the calories, fat, and carbs, relate to this serving size. But look carefully! The serving size listed may not match the serving size you usually eat. So, for example, if the serving size for pasta is 1/2 cup and you are about to put 1 cups on your plate-you'll need to triple the nutrition facts to match your serving size.

### Total fat

It is recommended that less than 30% of your total calories for the day come from fat. Based on the number of calories you eat, the chart below shows you how many grams of fat equals 30% of your total calories.

Total daily calories	Total daily fat grams
1400	47
1600	53
2000	67
2400	80

When you look at the total fat listed on a food label, compare this to your fat limit for the day. Look at labels of similar foods to find the lowest fat choice. Foods labeled "low fat" have 3 g (grams) or less of fat per serving.

### Nutrition Facts

Serving Size pita (39g)  
Servings Per Container 10

Amount Per Serving	
Calories	105
Calories from Fat 10	
%	
Total Fat 1g	
Saturated Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	
Sodium 255mg	
Total Carbohydrate 19g	
Dietary Fiber 2g	
Sugars 2g	
Protein 5g	
Vitamin A 0%	
Calcium 2%	
Vitamin C 0%	
Iron 7%	

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000-calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.



### Total carbohydrate

The total carbohydrate is a total of all the starch, sugars, and fiber in a serving of food. You don't need to single out sugar, just focus on the total carb number. One slice of bread has 15 grams of carbohydrate, or "1 carb choice." Use this number to get a better sense of what the amount of total carbohydrate means on a label. On the sample label shown, 1/2 pita has 19 grams of total carbohydrate, which is equal to about 1 carb choice.

### Fiber

Eating 20 to 35 grams of dietary fiber a day can be good for your health. When shopping for crackers, breads, or cereals, compare labels to find one that is higher in dietary fiber. A food is a good source of fiber if it has 2.5 grams or more of fiber in a serving.

## What's in a Word?

Here's what common terms mean when used on a label:

**LIGHT**  
A "light" food has 1/3 the calories or 1/2 the fat of the food to which it is being compared. For example, 1 tablespoon of light mayo has 50 calories and 5 grams of fat, while 1 tablespoon of the real thing has 100 calories and 11 grams of fat.

**LOW CALORIE**  
There still might be some calories in a serving of a "low calorie" food, but by law it has to be 40 calories or less.

**SUGAR FREE**  
If something is labeled "sugar free," it has only a half gram (0.5) of sugar or less per serving. Keep in mind, "sugar free" foods are not always low carbohydrate or low fat foods. Read the label carefully.





## Reading food labels

Total daily calories	Total daily fat grams
1400	47
1600	53
2000	67
2400	80

Eating 20 to 35 grams of dietary fiber a day can be good for your health. When shopping for crackers, breads, or cereals, compare labels to find one that is higher in dietary fiber. A food is a good source of fiber if it has 2.5 grams or more of fiber in a serving.

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# Healthy Eating:

## Planning Recommended Daily Menus

## Traditional American Cuisine—Reduced Calories

	1,200 Calories	1,600 Calories
<b>Breakfast</b>		
Whole wheat bread	1 med slice	1 med slice
Jelly, regular	2 tsp	2 tsp
Cereal, shredded wheat	1/2 cup	1 cup
Milk, 1%	1 cup	1 cup
Orange juice	3/4 cup	3/4 cup
Coffee, regular	1 cup	1 cup with 1 oz of 1% milk
<b>Lunch</b>		
Roast beef sandwich:		
Whole wheat bread	2 med slices	2 med slices
Lean roast beef, unseasoned	2 oz	2 oz
American cheese, low fat and low sodium	—	1 slice, 3/4 oz
Lettuce	1 leaf	1 leaf
Tomato	3 med slices	3 med slices
Mayonnaise, low caloric	1 tsp	2 tsp
Apple	1 med	1 med
Water	1 cup	1 cup
<b>Dinner</b>		
Salmon	2 oz edible	3 oz edible
Vegetable oil	1 1/2 tsp	1 1/2 tsp
Baked potato	3/4 med	3/4 med
Margarine	1 tsp	1 tsp
Green beans, seasoned, with margarine	1/2 cup	1/2 cup
Carrots, seasoned	1/2 cup	—
Carrots, seasoned, with margarine	—	1/2 cup
White dinner roll	1 small	1 med
Ice milk	—	1/2 cup
Iced tea, unsweetened	1 cup	1 cup
Water	2 cup	2 cup
<b>Snack</b>		
Popcorn	2 1/2 cup	2 1/2 cup
Margarine	3/4 tsp	1/2 tsp

Calories	1,247	Calories	1,613
Total carbohydrate,	58	Total carbohydrate,	55
% calories		% calories	
Total fat, % calories	26	Total fat, % calories	29
*Saturated fat, % calories	7	*Saturated fat, % calories	8
Sodium, mg	1,043	Sodium, mg	1,341
Cholesterol, mg	96	Cholesterol, mg	142
Protein, % calories	19	Protein, % calories	19

Note: Calories have been rounded. No salt added in recipe preparation or as seasoning.  
 \* At these reduced calorie levels, the amount of saturated fat is low even if the percent of calories from saturated fat is slightly over 7 percent.



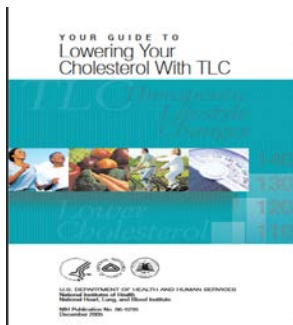
Healthy Eating:

***Multiple*** Dietary Changes

# Drop Your Cholesterol With TLC

You get a lot of benefit from the TLC Program. Here are some estimates of how much you can lower your LDL cholesterol by following various steps in the program. The estimates are what is expected based on research. The more you do with the program, the lower your LDL will go. Further, even if you take a cholesterol-lowering medication, you will still benefit from the program—it will keep the dose down.

	Change	LDL Reduction
Saturated fat	Decrease to less than 7% of calories	8–10%
Dietary cholesterol	Decrease to less than 200 mg/day	3–5%
Weight	Lose 10 pounds if overweight	5–8%
Soluble fiber	Add 5–10 grams/day	3–5%
Plant sterols/stanols	Add 2 grams/day	5–15%
<b>Total</b>		<b>20–30%*</b>



# Insulin Dosing Requires Attention to Fat, as Well as Carbs

By Anne Harding

July 19, 2016



Print



Email

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - People with type 1 diabetes should account for the amount of fat in a meal, as well as its carbohydrate content, when calculating their insulin dose, according to new findings.

"Insulin dosing for food needs to be based not only on carbohydrate content, but on meal composition," Dr. Howard Wolpert of the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, an author of the study, told Reuters Health. "What it entails is a shift in the way we approach dosing for meals."

Adjustment is necessary when a meal contains at least 40 grams of fat, he added, and the adjusted dose should be spread out rather than given all at once because fat can slow gastric emptying.

Studies have shown that both fat and protein can cause postprandial hyperglycemia, Dr. Wolpert and his team note in their report, published online July 7 in *Diabetes Care*. But there is little data on how patients should adjust insulin to account for the amount of fat or protein in a meal, they add.

The researchers looked at differences in postprandial glycemia over a six-hour period when 10 adults with type 1 diabetes consumed a low-fat, low-protein meal (LFLP) and a high-fat, high-protein (HFHP) meal, both covered by the same insulin dose. The study participants later repeated the HFHP meal using an adaptive model-predictive bolus (MPB) of insulin. All patients were on an insulin pump.

When patients received the same insulin dose, the HFHP meal more than doubled glucose incremental area under the curve compared with the LFLP meal (27,092 vs. 13,320 mg/dL/min).

Adjusting the dose to achieve target glucose control with the HFHP meal required, on average, a 65% increase in insulin dose, although the additional amount varied widely among study participants, from 17% to 124%.

Most of the fat-related increase in glucose occurred 80 minutes after the meal.

Most of the fat-related increase in glucose occurred 80 minutes after the meal.

A major limitation of past research is that investigators have assumed that people would all need the same increase in insulin when eating a higher-fat meal, Dr. Wolpert noted.

"There's huge interindividual variation in the effect of fat on people's insulin requirement, so dosing requirements need to be individualized," he said.

Protein has less of an impact on post-meal glucose, according to Dr. Wolpert, and requires insulin dose adjustment only with meals containing at least 75 grams of protein.

Dr. Wolpert is currently working on developing smartphone-based tools to provide insulin dosing guidance based on a meal's macronutrient content.

SOURCE: <http://bit.ly/2a1UCtu>

Diabetes Care 2016.

What kinds of approaches do you take with someone who is illiterate (Z55.0) and has DM?

For example, a lot of carb counting requires reading labels or using measuring cups. How do you best explain that?

# Being Active



Physical activity:  
Using a pedometer

# Example 1

## **Increasing Physical Activity by using a Pedometer.**

**The goal is to track your steps to increase by 10% each week during the month.**

- Do you have an activity tracker or pedometer?
- Now could be a good time to purchase an inexpensive option OR if not, you can always download a FREE pedometer app and keep your cell phone in your pocket.
- At the end of each week during the month, your goal is:

**1. Increase steps by 10%**

**OR**

**2. Reach an average of 10,000 steps per day over the course of one week (TOTAL of 70,000 steps)**

- How to track steps:
- Use a Pedometer, Activity Tracker, or Pedometer App on your phone to log steps at the end of each day
- Log TOTAL STEPS at the end of the week (if you reach at least 70,000 steps at the end of the week.
- Take your total steps and multiply by 1.1 (this increases that number by 10%)
- Your new goal for the next week is to INCREASE YOUR STEPS BY 10%



# Example 2

## Pedometer Challenge

- 1. Fill in the date and steps at the end of each day.
- 2. At the end of each week, calculate the average steps per day and multiply by 1.2 to determine what would be a **20% increase** for the next week.
- 3. Check in with your nutritionist for tips and motivation.


*Did you know there are approximately 10,000 steps in 5 miles?  
Can you reach 10,000 steps by the end of 4 weeks?  
The challenge is to try to beat last week's steps by 20%!*

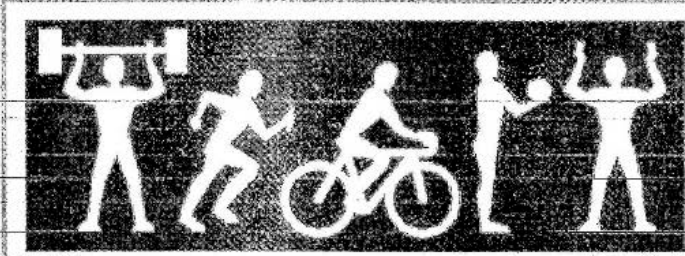
**Week 1:**

Date	Total Daily Steps
<b>Weekly Total:</b>	
Divide by 7 =	
Multiply by 1.2 =	
<b>This is your step goal per day for week #2</b>	

# Example 3

Live. Life. Healthy





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Weekly TOTAL
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	TOTAL STEPS: _____ Multiply by 1.1 = _____
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL STEPS: _____ Multiply by 1.1 = _____
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	TOTAL STEPS: _____ Multiply by 1.1 = _____
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	TOTAL STEPS: _____ Multiply by 1.1 = _____

Handout  
“Pedometer log”

## Rx for pedometer: front and back

[illegible]

# Teaching the teacher: Script for CDE when prescribing “Rx for Walking”

Key idea	Sample statements
<u>Why</u>	
[general benefit]	“Exercise is important for staying healthy.”
[concrete example]	“Walking helps keep your heart strong; it can help you lose weight; it also helps to relieve stress.”
[personalize]	“Exercise is especially important for you because you have diabetes.”
[meaningful metaphor]	“For people with diabetes, exercise is as important as the medicines they take to control their blood sugar.”
<u>What</u>	
[pull out Rx for walking] [sign & enter patient’s name]	“I am giving you a prescription for something that helps many people to start walking more.”
[basics of a pedometer]	“It’s for a pedometer. It’s a little thing that you clip onto your belt/pants/skirt, and it counts many steps you take.”
[most crucial point in prescription] [point to the contents of the Rx]	“This prescription tells you how many <u>extra</u> steps I want you to take.”
[next most important point]	“The idea is to gradually increase how much walking you do each week, and how fast you do it.”
[specify end-goal]	“That way you can work up to getting the amount of exercise you need to control your diabetes, and have more energy for the things you like to do.”
[activate mindset that good health requires <u>active self-care</u> ]	“The pedometer is a tool to help you do that in a way that works for you.”
<u>Where</u>	
[Tell patient where to take the prescription to get the pedometer.]	
[preview of session—reassurance that all will be explained]	“The [nurse, physician assistant/etc.] will give you the pedometer and show you how to use it.”
[reinforce active self-care mindset]	“S/he will also help you think about different ways you might enjoy taking the extra steps I have prescribed for you.”

NOTE: Record “prescribed pedometer” in the patient’s chart

Provides the CDE with:

Educationally sound curriculum

- Key ideas
- Content, sequence, and pace of instruction, etc.

Implicit training

- Be concrete, personalize, use meaningful metaphors, etc.

Key idea	Sample statements	
<u>Why</u>	<b><u>Why</u></b>	
[general benefit]		
[concrete example]	<b>[general benefit]</b>	"Exercise is important for staying healthy."
[personalize]		
[meaningful metaphor]	<b>[concrete example]</b>	"Walking helps keep your heart strong; it can help you lose weight; it also helps to relieve stress."
<u>What</u>		
[pull out Rx for sign & enter]	<b>[personalize]</b>	"Exercise is especially important for you because you have diabetes."
[basics of a p		
[most crucial prescription]	<b>[meaningful metaphor]</b>	"For people with diabetes, exercise is as important as the medicines they take to control their blood sugar."
[point to the contents of the Rx]		
[next most important point]	"The idea is to gradually increase how much walking you do each week, and how fast you do it."	
[specify end-goal]	"That way you can work up to getting the amount of exercise you need to control your diabetes, and have more energy for the things you like to do."	
[activate mindset that good health requires <u>active self-care</u> ]	"The pedometer is a tool to help you do that in a way that works for you."	
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Key ideas to convey to patient when MD gives “Rx for walking”

Key idea	Sample statements	
<u>Why</u>		
[general benefit]	“Exercise is important for staying healthy.”	
[concrete example]	“Walking helps keep your heart strong; it can help you lose weight; it also helps to relieve stress.”	
[personalize]	“Exercise is especially important for you because you have diabetes.”	
[meaningful metaphor]	“For people with diabetes, exercise is as important as the medicines they take to	
<u>What</u>		
[pull out Rx for walking]	[pull out Rx for walking]	“I am giving you a prescription for something that helps many people to start walking more.”
[sign & enter patient’s name]	[sign & enter patient’s name]	
[basics of a pedometer]	[basics of a pedometer]	“It’s for a pedometer. It’s a little thing that you clip onto your belt/pants/skirt, and it counts many steps you take.”
[most crucial point in prescription]	[most crucial point in prescription]	“This prescription tells you how many <u>extra</u> steps I want you to take.”
[point to the contents of the Rx]	[point to the contents of the Rx]	
[next most important point]	[next most important point]	“The idea is to gradually increase how much walking you do each week, and how fast you do it.”
[specify end-goal]	[specify end-goal]	
[activate mindset that good health requires <u>active self-care</u> ]	[specify end-goal]	“That way you can work up to getting the amount of exercise you need to control your diabetes, and have more energy for the things you like to do.”
<u>Where</u>		
[Tell patient where to take the prescription to get the pedometer.]	[activate mindset that good health requires <u>active self-care</u> ]	“The pedometer is a tool to help you do that in a way that works for you.”
[preview of session—reassurance that all will be explained]	how to use it.”	
[reinforce active self-care mindset]	“S/he will also help you think about different ways you might enjoy taking the extra steps I have prescribed for you.”	

NOTE: Record “prescribed pedometer” in the patient’s chart

Key idea	Sample statements
<u>Why</u>	
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[activate mindset that health requires active self-care]	<b>Where</b>	
<u>Where</u>		
[Tell patient where to take the prescription to get the pedometer.]	<b>[Tell patient where to take the prescription to get the pedometer.]</b>	
[preview of session—reassurance that all will be explained]	<b>[preview of session—reassurance that all will be explained]</b>	"The [nurse, physician assistant/etc.] will give you the pedometer and show you how to use it."
[reinforce active self-care mindset]	<b>[reinforce active self-care mindset]</b>	"S/he will also help you think about different ways you might enjoy taking the extra steps I have prescribed for you."



# Curriculum design: Don't assume they know what's obvious to you

Key ideas to convey to patient when clinic staff explain "Rx for walking"

Version: April 2009

NOTE: Can vary order of sections below and expand different points to fit each patient's particular needs and circumstances.

Key idea	Sample statements
<u>Why this Rx?</u>	
[reinforce MD's reason for Rx]	"The aim is to get you walking more, because that will in Walking is like medicine, and it's especially important for That's why Dr.____ has prescribed it for you."
[concrete example of benefits]	"For you in particular, it will ____ (name benefits based condition)_____."
[repeat MD's most crucial point about what the Rx prescribes]	"As the doctor said, the prescription is for walking <u>extra</u> <u>addition</u> to what you already do."
<u>Patient's current habits</u>	
[determine where, when, and how much the patient currently walks]	"Tell me about the walking you do now. It can be any kind example, when you are doing errands, at work, visiting f
[reinforce active self-care mindset]	"This information is important, because I'd like to help y kinds of extra walking would fit best into your life and be
[also signal follow-up]	"That might take some experimenting on your part, whic to follow-up with you in a few weeks."
<u>How the Rx works</u>	
[ "dosing" schedule—4 elements]	"Let's talk now about how much extra walking the docto schedule he has set out for doing it. It's really just like any other prescription: but instead of telling you how many <u>pills</u> to take and when to take them, it tells you how many <u>extra steps</u> to take, and how often to do so. "
[reinforce active self-care]	"And like any other prescription, he's not going to be feeding you the pills each day. That's your job. My job is to help you think of ways to make them tasty enough that you might even <u>like</u> taking them!"
[1. Frequency—same number of "doses" of walking—4—every week]	"The doctor wants you to do the extra walking <u>four</u> days each week."  "It doesn't matter which four days you pick, as long as you do four days sometime during the week."
[2. Amount—same number of minutes—20—in every "dose"]	"The prescription is for 20 minutes of extra walking each day. So that's an extra 20 minutes, four days a week."  "If you can't do 20 minutes at one time at first, don't worry. Just do two 10-minute walks that day instead. "
[modification, if appropriate]	

Explaining key ideas in Rx for walking

1

## Can't assume that—

### Patient will know:

- What a pedometer is
- How to wear it
- The exact regimen of the Rx

### The CDE will know:

- Aim of script (e.g., extra steps)
- How to explain & adjust regimen

[3. Intensity—number of steps per "dose" increases in second and fourth weeks]	"You are probably wondering how the pedometer fits in. This is the interesting part. To be good medicine, walking needs to get your heart working a bit harder. If you walk as slowly as a snail, it won't do you much good. And it'd be <i>really</i>
	ant you to walk at least a certain first week, the doctor wants you 0 minutes. The pedometer will how to use it."
	eps—not 1,000 like before, but at you will have to walk faster. egs working a bit harder. They've lk the 1,000 steps in 20 minutes."
	er than two weeks, that's OK. s is not how soon you reach the
	to reach 2,000 steps in 20 minutes.
	a day, four days every week. That minutes of <u>extra</u> walking <u>added</u> to
	ou are supposed to walk. Every week or two, you have to walk more steps during those 20-minute walks. This is to get you walking faster—and further."
[4. Duration—indefinite]	"People who take medicine for diabetes usually have to take it for the rest of their lives, if they want to stay healthy as possible. The same is true for getting exercise. It works only as long as you keep doing it. That's why your prescription says to keep doing the extra walking even after you reach the fastest speed prescribed."
<u>Accommodations to fit patient</u>	
[based on patient health and stamina, adjust expectations and advice; accelerate the timetable or slow it down, if necessary; give cautions, where appropriate ]	"The prescription can always be adjusted if it needs to be."

Explaining key ideas in Rx for walking

2

Can't assume that—

Patient will know:

- What a pedometer is
- How to wear it
- The exact regimen of the Rx


The CDE will know:


- Aim of script (e.g., extra steps)
- How to explain & adjust regimen




# Graduated Rx


## Basic Rx

 College of Education & Human Development  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

 Version 2/7/12  
for Walking with Pedometer

 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

**The Basic Rx (no increase over time)**

 for walking with your pedometer

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount per week:**

\_\_\_\_\_ steps in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ days per week


**speed** (red box with arrows pointing to steps and minutes)


Other instructions: \_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provider's signature


Developed by: Linda S. Gottfredson, PhD, School of Education, University of Delaware, & Kathy Stroh, MS, RD, CDE,  
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Delaware Division of Public Health (Dec 2008; Rev. Feb 2012) PAGE 1 of 1

 College of Education & Human Development  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

 Version 2/7/12  
for Walking with Pedometer

 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

**Graduated Rx (gradual increase over time)**

 for walking with your pedometer

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount per week:**

**Week 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ steps in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ days per week

**Week 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ steps in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ days per week

**Week 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ steps in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ days per week

**After Week 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ steps in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ days per week

Other instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provider's signature

Developed by: Linda S. Gottfredson, PhD, School of Education, University of Delaware, & Kathy Stroh, MS, RD, CDE,  
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Delaware Division of Public Health (Dec 2008; Rev. Feb 2012) PAGE 1 of 1

increases

# Monitoring



# SMBG Accuracy

# Patient behaviors & daily circumstances that reduce accuracy of BGM results

- Circumstances that can lower BGM accuracy
  - Environmental conditions (e.g., cold, high altitude)
  - Contaminants on the skin from food sources and lotions
- Less experience: BG results less accurate and precise when measured by patient rather than health professionals
- Under filling the test strip: Can introduce errors >20%
- Using alternate sites (sampling from palm, upper arm, forearm, thigh, or calf) can give inaccurate results, especially when glucose levels are changing rapidly.
  - After meals or exercise
  - When ill or under stress
  - Shortly after insulin administration

# Measuring blood sugar: Version 1

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

Measuring Your Blood sugar

Testing your blood sugar often can help you control your diabetes.

Check your blood sugar regularly when:

- Taking diabetes pills or insulin
- Pregnant
- Blood sugar is hard to control
- Blood sugar results are low
- Blood sugar results are high and your urine has ketones
- Low blood sugar occurs without the usual warning signs
- Changing eating habits
- Taking certain medications, such as steroids or liquid medications

Check your blood sugar at different times during the day

- Upon waking, before breakfast
- 2 hours after the start of a meal
- Before meals
- When you feel blood sugar is too high or too low

A glucometer is a machine that measures your blood sugar.

**Choosing a glucometer**


- Does your healthcare provider prefer a certain glucometer?
- What is the cost of the glucometer, batteries, and test strips
  - Which glucometers are covered by your insurance company?
  - Is there a rebate toward the cost of the glucometer
- Ease of use
  - Some glucometers have more steps to follow than others.
  - Are the numbers easy to read?
  - Some glucometers allow you to stick your forearm, thigh, or fleshy part of your hand instead of your fingertip. Read the manufacturer's instructions.
  - Is the glucometer easy to clean?
- How to make sure the glucometer is accurate
  - Some glucometers have special coding or a computer chip that must be changed, or calibrated, with every new bottle of test strips.
  - Some glucometers have a "control" substance to check the machine.
  - Most glucometers are accurate and precise if used properly.

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

Measuring Your Blood sugar

Glucometers may be a little different in how they are used. Here are some general steps.

- Wash your hands.
- Insert a test strip in your glucometer. This often turns the glucometer on, but some glucometers may have an on-off switch.



- Using a lancet, prick your fingertip. You may want to prick the side of your fingertip near the fingernail to avoid soreness on the end of your finger.
- Gently squeeze or massage your finger until a drop of blood forms.
- Touch and hold the edge of the test strip to the drop of blood.
- Often your glucometer will "beep" when there is enough blood.
- Your blood sugar result will appear on the glucometer's display.

Write down your blood sugar results each time you take them. Most glucometers come with log books, or you can use a notebook. Some glucometers can store blood sugar results. Be sure you have the date and time set and know how to use a glucometer with a memory. Show your record to your healthcare provider at every visit.

Poor meter readings result from:

- Dirty glucometer
- Glucometer or test strip that is not at room temperature
- Old or outdated test strips
- Glucometer that is not calibrated to the bottle of test strips used by that glucometer
- Too much or too little blood on the test strip

Your healthcare provider can help you understand how to use your glucometer.

# Measuring blood sugar: Version 2


Starting Insulin – a patient guide

Measuring Your Blood sugar

Checking your blood sugar is important when you have diabetes.

Check your blood sugar when:

- Taking diabetes pills or insulin
- Pregnant
- Traveling
- Changing eating habits
- On new medicines
- Starting new exercise
- Sick



Your healthcare provider may tell you to check your blood sugar:

- When you wake up before you eat
- Before meals
- Two hours after you eat
- If you feel like your blood sugar is too high or too low

A glucometer is a machine that measures your blood sugar.


Choosing a glucometer:

- Ask your healthcare provide which glucometer is best for you.
- How much does the glucometer cost?
- How much do the batteries and test strips cost?
- Does your insurance pay for the glucometer and supplies?
- Is it easy to use?
- Are the numbers clear to read?
- Is it easy to clean?
- Is it easy to program?
  - Some glucometers have special coding or a computer chip that must be changed with every new bottle of test strips.
  - Some glucometers have a “control” substance to check the machine.

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

Measuring Your Blood sugar

To use your glucometer:



1. Wash your hands
2. Put the test strip in your glucometer.
3. Using a sharp lancet, prick your fingertip.
4. Squeeze a small drop of blood out of your finger.
5. Touch the edge of the test strip to the blood.
6. Your machine might “beep” when there is enough blood.
7. Your results will show up on the glucometer.

Write down your blood sugar results and the time of day you tested in the glucometer log book or a notebook. Some glucometers can store blood sugar results. Be sure you have the date and time set and know how to use a glucometer with a memory.

Show your record to your healthcare provider at every visit.

Causes of incorrect results:

- Dirty glucometer
- Glucometer and test strip are not at room temperature
- Old or outdated test strips
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- Too much or too little blood on the test strip

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# Measuring blood sugar: Version 1

## Low literacy

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

## Measuring Your Blood sugar

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- Old or outdated test strips
- Glucometer that is not calibrated to the bottle of test strips used by that glucometer
- Too much or too little blood on the test strip

Your healthcare provider can help you understand how to use your glucometer.

Place label here.

Readability Statistics

Counts	
Words	513
Characters	2535
Paragraphs	49
Sentences	30
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.3
Words per Sentence	11.1
Characters per Word	4.8
Readability	
Passive Sentences	3%
Flesch Reading Ease	63.5
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	7.1

OK

# Measuring blood sugar: Version 2

## Very low literacy

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

Measuring Your Blood sugar

Checking your blood sugar is important when you have diabetes.

**Check your blood sugar when:**

- Taking diabetes pills or insulin
- Pregnant
- Traveling
- Changing eating habits
- On new medicines
- Starting new exercise
- Sick

Your healthcare provider may tell you to check your blood sugar:

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- Before meals
- Two hours after you eat
- If you feel like your blood sugar is too high or too low

A glucometer is a machine that measures your blood sugar.

**Choosing a glucometer:**

- Ask your healthcare provide which glucometer is best for you.
- How much does the glucometer cost?
- How much do the batteries and test strips cost?
- Does your insurance pay for the glucometer and supplies?
- Is it easy to use?
- Are the numbers clear to read?
- Is it easy to clean?
- Is it easy to program?
  - Some glucometers have special coding or a computer chip that must be changed with every new bottle of test strips.
  - Some glucometers have a “control” substance to check the machine.

Readability Statistics


Counts	
Words	358
Characters	1680
Paragraphs	48
Sentences	23
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.1
Words per Sentence	9.3
Characters per Word	4.4
Readability	
Passive Sentences	4%
Flesch Reading Ease	77.7
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	4.7

OK

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

Measuring Your Blood sugar

To use your glucometer:



1. Wash your hands
2. Put the test strip in your glucometer.
3. Using a sharp lancet, prick your fingertip.
4. Squeeze a small drop of blood out of your finger.
5. Touch the edge of the test strip to the blood.
6. Your machine might “beep” when there is enough blood.
7. Your results will show up on the glucometer.

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- Too much or too little blood on the test strip

**Your healthcare provider can help you understand how to use your glucometer.**



# Blood Glucose Logs

# Recall

## Blood Glucose Log

Name

[illegible]

## Blood Glucose Log

Name \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Recall

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_  
Lista de Glucosa

Fecha	Hora	Numero de glucosa	Otra informacion
2016			
5-3		112	6-18 6:52 108
5-4	7:05	124	6-19 6:56 110
5-5		116	6-20 7:58 99
5-6	7:07	121	6-21 12:08 150
5-7	7:20	109	6-22 6:58 146
5-8	7:12	110	6-23 7:05 109
5-9	8:39	102	6-24 6:55 126
5-10			6-25 7:13 112
5-11	6:55	107	6-26 7:03 108
5-12	7:05	118	6-27 8:23 149
5-13	7:03	121	6-28
5-14	7:00	132	6-29
5-15	7:10	121	6-30
5-16	7:05	185	7-9 6:49 122
5-17	6:45	129	7-10 7:06 130
5-18	6:56	124	7-11 6:58 192
5-19	6:59	113	7-12 7:47 126
5-20	6:54	114	7-13 6:58 125
5-21	7:00	113	7-14 7:02 136
5-22	7:14	122	7-15 6:50 130
5-23	7:14	106	7-16 6:52 121
5-24	8:15	104	7-17 7:02 126
5-25	6:55	128	7-18 8:21 127
5-26	6:55	107	7-19 7:39 139
5-27	6:58	120	7-20 7:06 109
5-28	6:41	118	7-21 6:59 126
5-29	6:50	111	7-22 6:57 123
5-30	10:43	106	7-23 6:56 107
5-31	9:48	113	7-24 7:14 130
6-1	7:56	116	7-25 8:13 136
6-2	6:51	114	
6-3	7:01	106	
6-4	7:03	129	
6-5	6:59	115	
6-6	6:21	110	
6-7	9:13	118	
6-8	6:50	113	
6-9	7:01	112	
6-10	6:52	111	
6-11	6:56	103	
6-12	6:52	92	
6-13	7:31	125	
6-14	8:38	106	
6-15	6:49	102	
6-16	6:57	119	
6-17	6:56	110	

KS 9/15

# Blood glucose log: Example 1

Blood Sugar Log for the Week of \_\_\_\_\_

	Breakfast			Lunch			Dinner			Bedtime			During the Night		
	blood sugar before	insulin	blood sugar after	blood sugar before	insulin	blood sugar after	blood sugar before	insulin	blood sugar after	blood sugar before	insulin	blood sugar after	blood sugar before	insulin	blood sugar after
Monday															
Tuesday															
Wednesday															
Thursday															
Friday															
Saturday															
Sunday															

Weekly blood sugar notes


## Blood glucose log: Example 2

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Blood Glucose</b>	<b>Other Information</b>

# Blood glucose log: Example 3

Date	Before Breakfast	2 hours after breakfast	Before lunch	2 hours after lunch	Before dinner	2 hour after dinner	Bedtime
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

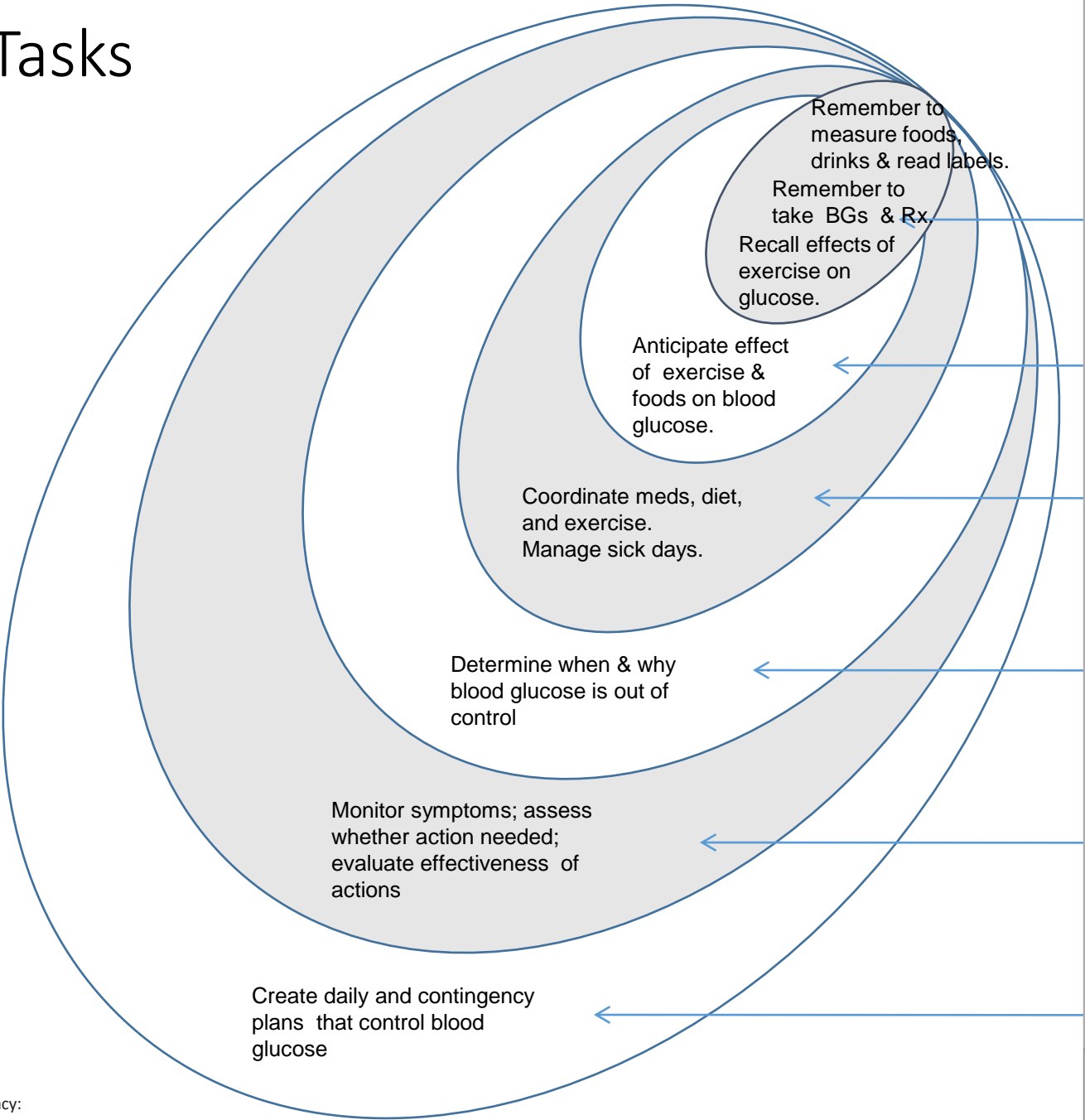
# Paired testing: Why is it more complex?

	Before breakfast	2 hours after breakfast	Before lunch	2 hours after lunch	Before dinner	2 hours after dinner
Monday	X	X				
Tuesday			X	X		
Wednesday					X	X
Thursday	X	X				
Friday			X	X		
Saturday					X	X
Sunday	X	X				



What actionable information should a BG log or meter display contain?


# Monitoring Tasks



## Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives (cognitive domain)\*

### *Simplest tasks*

#### 1. Remember

recognize, recall, identify, retrieve

#### 2. Understand

paraphrase, summarize, compare, predict, infer

#### 3. Apply

execute familiar task,, apply procedure to unfamiliar task

#### 4. Analyze

distinguish, focus, select, integrate, coordinate

#### 5. Evaluate

check, monitor, detect inconsistencies, judge effectiveness

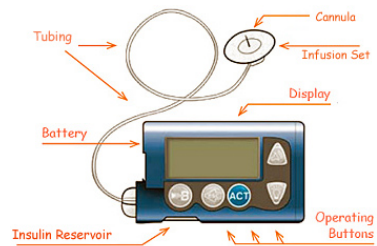
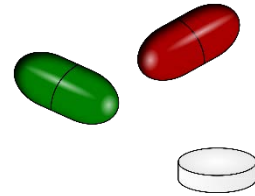
#### 6. Create

hypothesize, plan, invent, devise, design

### *Most complex tasks*

\*Revised 2001: Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. A taxonomy for learning, teaching, and assessing: A revision of Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives. NY: Addison Wesley Longman.

# Taking Medication



Insulins

Oral agents

Syringes

Pens

Non-insulin injectables

Insulin Pumps

Non-diabetes Rx



Taking Medication:

Assessing Cognitive Barriers to Adherence

Recall

# Task #1—Underline sentence saying how often to give the medicine

## Pediatric Dosage Chart

Recommend

ALCOHOL-FREE  
ASPIRIN-FREE  
**Tempra**  
ACETAMINOPHEN

A Caring Sponsor of  
**Ronald McDonald House**  
Ronald McDonald House is a program of  
Ronald McDonald Children's Charities\*

### Pediatric Dosage Chart Drops, Syrup, & Chewables

Age	Approximate Weight Range*	Dosage			
		Drops	Syrup	Chewables 80 mg	Chewables 160 mg
† Under 3 mo	Under 13 lb	½ dropper	¼ tsp	—	—
† 3 to 9 mo	13-20 lb	1 dropper	½ tsp	—	—
† 10 to 24 mo	21-26 lb	1 ½ droppers	¾ tsp	—	—
2 to 3 yr	27-35 lb	2 droppers	1 tsp	2 tablets	—
4 to 5 yr	36-43 lb	3 droppers	1½ tsp	3 tablets	1½ tablets
6 to 8 yr	44-62 lb	—	2 tsp	4 tablets	2 tablets
9 to 10 yr	63-79 lb	—	2½ tsp	5 tablets	2½ tablets
11 yr	80-89 lb	—	3 tsp	6 tablets	3 tablets
12 yr and older	90 lb & over	—	3-4 tsp	6-8 tablets	3-4 tablets

\* Consult with physician before administering to children under the age of 2 years.

**Dosage may be given every 4 hours as needed but not more than 5 times daily.**

How Supplied:

Drops: Each 0.8 ml dropper contains 80 mg (1.23 grains) acetaminophen.

Syrup: Each 5 ml teaspoon contains 160 mg (2.46 grains) acetaminophen.

Chewables: Regular tablets contain 80 mg (1.23 grains) acetaminophen each. Double strength tablets contain 160 mg (2.46 grains) acetaminophen each.

\* If child is significantly under- or overweight, dosage may need to be adjusted accordingly.

The weight categories in this chart are designed to approximate effective dose ranges of 10-15 milligrams per kilogram.

(Current Pediatric Diagnosis and Treatment, 8th ed, CH Kempe and HK Silver, ed. Lange Medical Publications: 1984, p. 1079)

LA-1451-2-88 © 1988, Bristol-Myers U.S. Pharmaceutical and Nutritional Group • Evansville, Indiana 47721 U.S.A.

© 1988, Bristol-Myers Pharmaceutical and Nutritional Group.

- One piece of info
- Simple match
- But lots of irrelevant info

**Caution!**

Can train people to do this task, but not all possible tasks like it

“Don’t do” learning is critical but cognitively demanding  
Hardest think to change may be an ingrained habit!

Recall

### **"Do Not Crush, Chew or Cut"**

From the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP): When a patient is prescribed a timed release medication such as Glucotrol XL or Glucophage XR, clinicians need to ensure that the patients understand that they should not crush, chew or cut these pills. The medications must be swallowed whole.

In one case an elderly patient was prescribed Glucotrol XL to treat elevated blood sugars. This is a specially formulated medication that releases an entire day's supply of the medication slowly over a 24-hour period. The pill was too large for the woman to swallow, so she chewed it. She soon complained of feeling dizzy, weak, listless, and lethargic. Chewing the drug caused it to be released all at once, causing dangerously low blood glucose levels, which could have been fatal....

Patients don't need to take time-release pills so often, but must *suppress* any habit of crushing, chewing, or cutting pills.

# But what if patient cannot swallow the whole pill?

Woman, 67 years of age, newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes with an A1C of 7.8%. Met with PCP who prescribed metformin ER and referred patient for diabetes education. Patient made some dietary and physical activity changes at first, but upon return visit her A1C was 8.5%. She reported she did not take the metformin. "I can't swallow big pills. The bottle said not to crush or break the tablets. They were just too big to swallow. So then I just gave up on everything."

Did this patient lack cognitive access to her DM treatment?  
If so, in what way? Be specific.  
(“Did not understand” is not sufficient!)

In hindsight, could the prescribing clinician have provided her better cognitive access? If so, specifically how?  
(“More” or “better” education is not sufficient!)



# Changing doses can be confusing

## Changing Doses Can Be Confusing

A woman with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes mellitus and also on blood pressure and anti-lipid medication was given prescriptions for: glucophage 500mg QD for one week, and then an increase to two 500mg tablets the second week.

On her return appointment, diabetes education was prescribed and the patient was instructed to continue on her other medications. During a review of her treatment regimen during the fourth week after the initial prescription, the patient reported having gastrointestinal side effects.

After questioning the patient further and digging a little deeper, the medical staff discovered that she was taking two 500mg glucophage at bedtime just once weekly.

Switching her schedule to one 500mg tablet before breakfast and dinner cut down on the side effects and improved the blood glucose control by the time she

returned for more education three weeks later.

### Lesson Learned:

Following up with patients whenever there is a change of medication or dosage can help prevent medication errors.

Martha Mendez, RN, MSN, CCRC

## Complexity of task = opportunity for error

Patient must recognize that the change is adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> pill each day

Patient drew wrong inference about “changing”

Patient had “literal thinking”

## DSMES

Clarify what was changed and what not

Give explicit instructions about what to remember

Do not assume that patient can infer new Rx schedule

Confirm instructions.

# Lack of understanding often mistaken as lack of information or motivation

Types of Non-Adherence	Examples
<b>Primary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Medication is purposefully never filled or taken</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Never filling a prescription</li><li>Makes no attempt to exercise or eat healthy</li></ul>
<b>Secondary (or Persistence)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Medication is not taken properly or continued as prescribed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unintentional<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Forgetfulness</li><li>Do not understand directions due to poor health literacy</li><li>Medication side effects</li><li>Un(or under)-insured</li></ul></li><li>Intentional<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patient decides to stop taking the medication on their own</li><li>Lack of information regarding medication risks and benefit</li></ul></li><li>Lack of motivation to follow recommended treatment plan</li></ul>

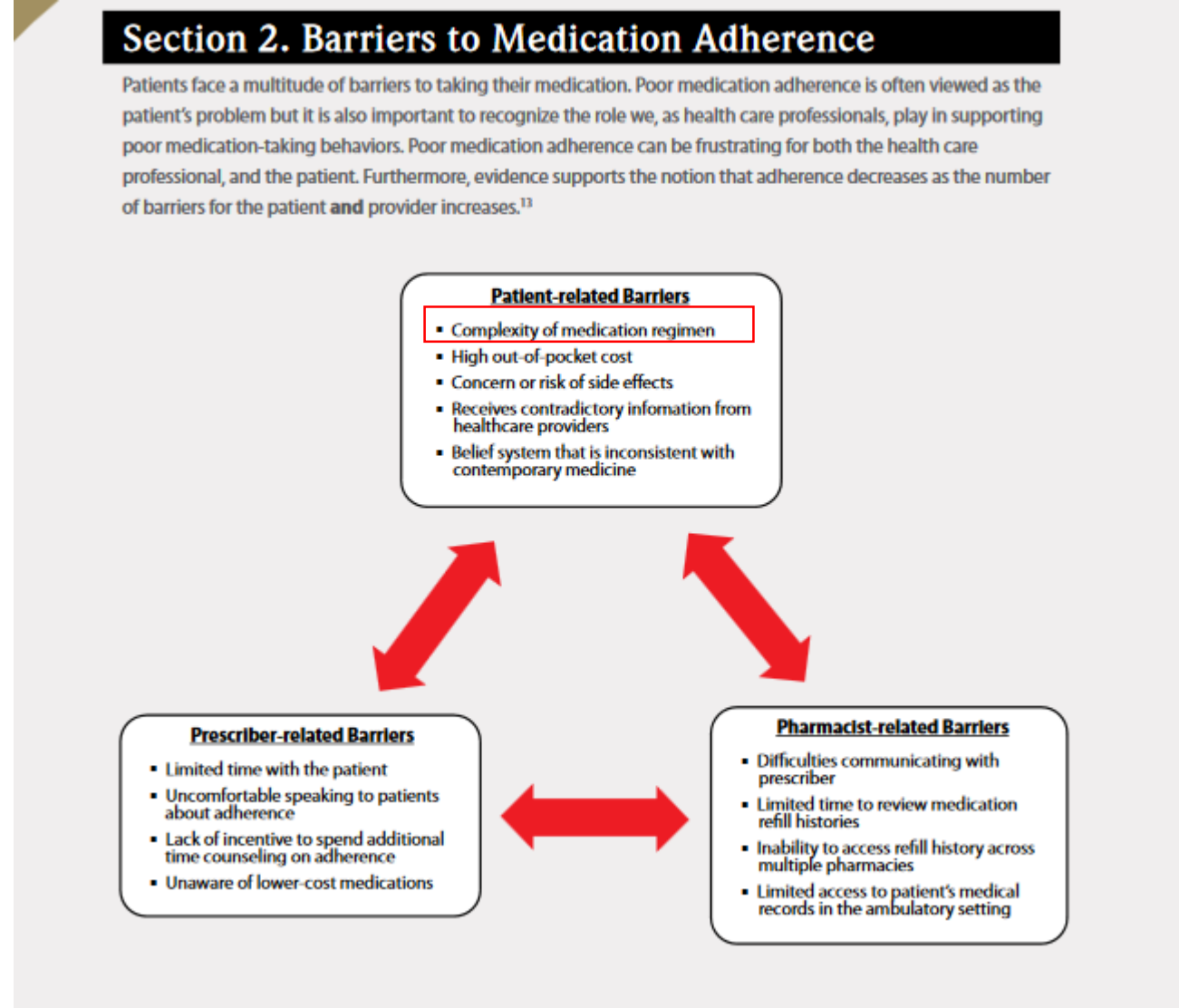
True, but...

People tend to “forget” what they do not understand.

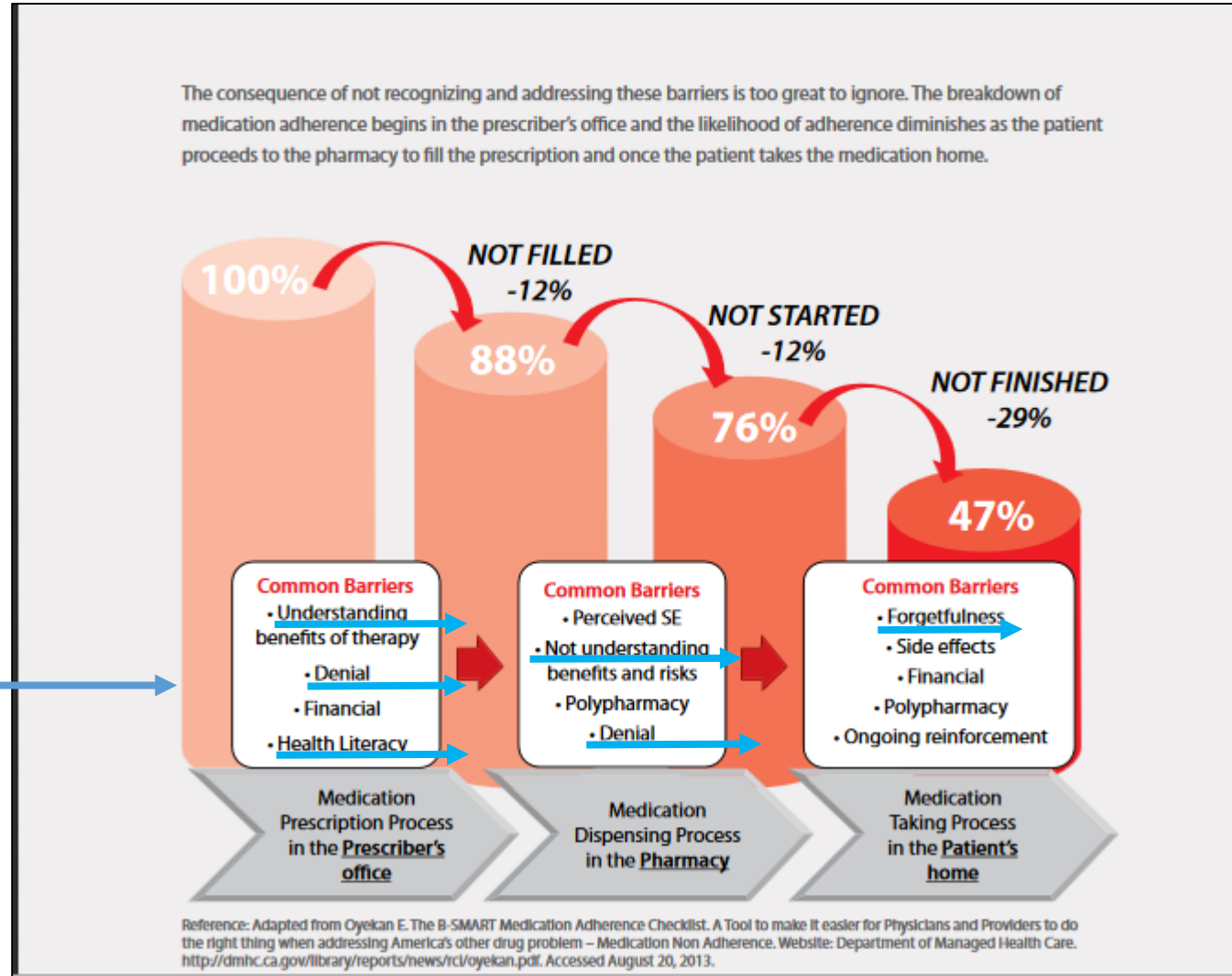
But literacy is more than decoding text (reading). It a general ability to understand & use the information it contains.

Patient may not grasp how treatment works

More complexity = less understanding = less adherence



# Cumulative impact of cognitive burdens & barriers on adherence



<b>Pill Count</b> <i>Physical counting of pills in the dispensed packaging</i>	Inexpensive	Actual medication taking not recorded
<b>Prescription Claims Data</b> <i>Provides refill frequency over a specified period</i>	Non-invasive Inexpensive	Limited to patients who use one pharmacy Actual medication taking not recorded
<b>Electronic Pill Bottle</b> <i>Records occurrence and time bottle was opened</i>	Noninvasive Provides information on patterns of medication taking	Expensive Not practical for most patients Does not ensure medication was taken
<b>Subjective</b>		
<b>Brief Medication Questionnaire</b> <i>Self-reporting tool used to identify patients at risk of non-adherence<sup>17</sup></i>	Accurate Validated in wide range of disease states	Patient provides false information
<b>Brief Illness Perception Questionnaire</b> <i>Assesses cognitive and emotional representations of illness</i>  Available at: <a href="http://www.uib.no/ipq/">http://www.uib.no/ipq/</a>	Good test-retest reliability Inexpensive	Time consuming Patient provides false information
<b>Medication Adherence Rating Scale</b> <i>Determines patient willingness and ability to take oral medications daily</i>  Available at: <a href="http://www.virtualmedicalcentre.com/tools">http://www.virtualmedicalcentre.com/tools</a> Also available on iTunes	Brief, easy to use Inexpensive More sensitive	Only identifies one barrier (forgetfulness) Patient provides false information
<b>Morisky Medication Adherence Scale</b> <i>Measures medication-taking behavior</i>  Available at: <a href="http://www.acpinternist.org/archives/2009/02/adherence.pdf">http://www.acpinternist.org/archives/2009/02/adherence.pdf</a>	Brief, easy to use Inexpensive	Patient provides false information
<b>Medication Adherence Individual Review Screening Tool – MedAdhIR-ST</b> <i>Tool to identify and assess adherence among elderly patients<sup>18</sup></i>  Available on iTunes	Brief, easy to use Free	Only validated in the elderly population

# Improve patient understanding by understanding (and adapting to) the patient

Section 6. Interventions to Improve Adherence		
According to several studies, interventions to improve medication adherence should be simple. The mnemonic, "SIMPLE", categorizes efforts to improve adherence. <sup>23,24</sup>		
S	Simplify the regimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adjust timing, frequency, and dosage</li><li>Utilize once-daily medications whenever possible</li><li>Encourage the use of adherence aids (e.g., pillboxes, cell phone alarms)</li><li>Consider each patient's activities of daily living (e.g., swing shift workers)</li></ul>
I	Impart knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patient-provider shared decision making</li><li>Provide clear instructions and expectations for all prescriptions</li><li>Involve relatives or caregivers when discussing medications</li><li>Recommend electronic education formats (e.g., video, websites)</li></ul>
M	Modify patient beliefs and human behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ask patient about their needs and what might help them adhere to therapy</li><li>Ensure patient understands consequences of non-adherence</li><li>Addressed perceived barriers of taking the medication</li><li>Provide rewards for adherence (e.g., praise, coupons, fewer clinic visits)</li></ul>
P	Provide communication and trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Practice to improve interviewing skills</li><li>Embrace active listening and provide emotional support</li><li>Elicit patient's input when discussing treatment options</li><li>Allow adequate time for the interaction and encourage patient to ask questions</li></ul>
L	Leave the bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Foster a greater understanding of health literacy and how it affects patients</li><li>Ensure communication style is patient-centered</li><li>Take extra time to understand and overcome cultural barriers</li><li>Tailor education to the patient's level of understanding</li></ul>
E	Evaluating adherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ask patients simply and directly about adherence</li><li>Engage patients about adherence at every encounter</li><li>Measure drug levels or efficacy parameters, when applicable</li><li>Review medication containers, noting last fill date and remaining medicine</li></ul>



# Using syringes: Version 1

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

INSULIN SYRINGES AND PENS

Insulin is injected in the fat just under the skin, using:

- Syringes
- Insulin pens
- Insulin pumps

The most common way to inject insulin is with a **syringe**.

- A syringe is a hollow plastic tube with a plunger inside and a short skinny needle attached.
- Insulin is injected into the fatty tissue just under the skin. This is called a subcutaneous tissue, or “sub-Q” injection.



Syringes come in different sizes.

- Each line on a 100-unit syringe marks 2 units of insulin.
- Each line on a 50-unit or 30-unit syringe marks 1 unit of insulin.
- Use a syringe large enough to hold the whole dose of insulin.

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

INSULIN SYRINGES AND PENS

- Use a 30-unit syringe if you take 30 units of insulin or less.
- Use a 50-unit syringe if you take 50 units of insulin or less.
- Use a syringe that shows 1/2-unit marks if you need 1/2 a unit of insulin.
- Be sure that you can clearly see the markings on your syringe.
- No prescription is needed for insulin syringes.
- If you have poor eyesight or arthritis in your hands, talk to your healthcare provider about using another method, such as an insulin pen.
- Your healthcare provider can show you the different sizes of syringes and help you choose what works best for you.

Needles are described by length and thickness (“gauge”).

- The standard needle is 1/2-inch long.
- Needles also come in 5/16-inch and 3/16-inch lengths.
- The 3/16-inch length is often used for children.
- The thinner the needle, the higher its gauge. For example, a 31-gauge needle is thinner than a 28-gauge needle.

**Insulin pens** look like writing pens, except that there is a thin, short needle at the end.

- Some insulin pens can be refilled, while other pens are thrown away when empty.
- Pre-filled insulin pens come with either one type of insulin or a mixture of two types of insulin.
- Insulin pens with pre-mixes work if they match your prescription.
- You may need one insulin pen for each type of insulin if pre-mix does not match your prescription.

**Insulin pumps** are used by people who have type 1 diabetes. People with type 2 diabetes rarely use an insulin pump. Insulin pumps give a continuous dose of insulin. Talk to your healthcare provider if you think an insulin pump might be right for you.

# Using syringes: Version 2

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

INSULIN SYRINGES AND PENS


There are no insulin pills. You must use a shot, a special kind of pen, or an insulin pump to get insulin into the body.

Using a shot is the most common way to get insulin into your body. The shot is given using a syringe.

The needle is smaller than most needles you may have seen.

The shot is given just under the skin in the fatty part of your arm, leg or belly.

Here is a picture of insulin syringes.



The image shows four insulin syringes standing upright. From left to right, they are marked for 30, 50, 100, and 100 units. Below them lies an insulin pen, which is a long, thin device with a needle attached to the end. The pen has a white cap and a yellow/orange body.

Starting Insulin – a patient guide

INSULIN SYRINGES AND PENS


Syringes come in different sizes.

- If you take 30 units or less, use a 30 unit syringe
- If you take 50 units or less, use a 50 unit syringe
- If you take 100 units or less, use a 100 unit syringe
- Make sure you can see the markings on your syringe.

A prescription is not needed to buy the syringes.

Your healthcare provider can help you decide which is the best syringe for you.

**Insulin pens** look like a writing pen, but there is a small needle on the end. Some pens can be refilled; others are thrown away when empty.



The image shows an insulin pen, which is a long, thin device with a needle attached to the end. It has a white cap and a yellow/orange body.

**Insulin pumps** are most often used for people with type 1 diabetes. They give small amounts of insulin throughout the day. A pump is not usually used in people with type 2 diabetes.

Your healthcare provider will teach you about ways to take insulin.



# Using syringes: Version 1

## Low literacy

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide


## INSULIN SYRINGES AND PENS

Insulin is injected in the fat just under the skin, using:

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### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

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- The thinner the needle, the higher its gauge. For example, a 31-gauge needle is thinner than a 26-gauge needle.

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Readability Statistics

Counts	
Words	416
Characters	1872
Paragraphs	35
Sentences	30
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.1
Words per Sentence	12.3
Characters per Word	4.2
Readability	
Passive Sentences	23%
Flesch Reading Ease	69.3
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	6.6

OK

# Using syringes: Version 2

## Very low literacy

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

## INSULIN SYRINGES AND PENS

There are no insulin pills. You must use a shot, a special kind of pen, or an insulin pump to get insulin into the body.

Using a shot is the most common way to get insulin into your body. The shot is given using a syringe.

The needle is smaller than most needles you may have seen.

The shot is given just under the skin in the fatty part of your arm, leg or belly.

Here is a picture of insulin syringes.



Readability Statistics		?	×
Counts			
Words	245		
Characters	1043		
Paragraphs	18		
Sentences	17		
Averages			
Sentences per Paragraph	1.5		
Words per Sentence	11.2		
Characters per Word	4.1		
Readability			
Passive Sentences	5%		
Flesch Reading Ease	77.8		
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	5.0		
		OK	

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

## INSULIN SYRINGES AND PENS

Syringes come in different sizes.

- If you take 30 units or less, use a 30 unit syringe
- If you take 50 units or less, use a 50 unit syringe
- If you take 100 units or less, use a 100 unit syringe
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Your healthcare provider will teach you about ways to take insulin.

# Needle safety: Version 1

**Starting Insulin – a patient guide**

**NEEDLE SAFETY**

People with diabetes use sharp objects to check blood sugar and inject insulin. These sharp items should be thrown away safely.

**You should:**

- Always put the syringes and lancets – the piece that pricks your skin to check your blood sugar – in a heavy plastic or metal box with a tight lid or you can get a red “sharps” container at the pharmacy.
- Keep the container in a safe place in your house, away from children. On top of the refrigerator is a good place.
- When the container is filled, tighten the lid and tape it with heavy-duty tape before throwing it out.
- Some cities may allow you to put the container in the trash.
- Check with your local health department or clinic to find out how to get rid of your syringes and lancets.



**Starting Insulin – a patient guide**

**NEEDLE SAFETY**

**Do not:**

- Use a container that will allow the needle to punch through the side.
- Use a glass jar.
- Use a container that might go into the recycling.
- Put used syringes or lancets into the garbage or trash unless they are in a special container.



**Syringes should be used only once:**

- Needles are made for single use.
- Reused syringes are not sterile.

**NEVER share used syringes with anyone else. You can pass diseases or spread infection by sharing needles.**

# Needle safety: Version 2


Starting Insulin – a patient guide

NEEDLE SAFETY

People with diabetes use sharp instruments to check blood sugar and inject insulin. It is important that you safely dispose of insulin needles and lancets, the sharp tools that pierce the skin for blood sugar checks.

Syringes and lancets must be handled carefully and treated as “medical waste.”

- Right after injecting your insulin, put the syringe into your syringe disposal container.
- A syringe disposal container is a heavy-duty plastic or metal box that closes firmly or a heavy-duty plastic bottle with a screw top. A special “sharps container” may be provided by your pharmacy or clinic.
- Store the container in a safe place in your house, away from children. On top of the refrigerator is a good place.
- When the container is filled, tighten the lid and reinforce it with heavy-duty tape before disposing of it.
- Some areas may allow you to put the sealed container in the trash. You may want to use a drop box, supervised collection site, mail-back program, or syringe exchange program.
- Check with your local health department or clinic to find out how to dispose of medical waste in your area.



Starting Insulin – a patient guide

NEEDLE SAFETY

Do not do any of the following.

- Use a container that will allow the needle to punch through the side.
- Use a container made of glass.
- Use a container that could end up in the recycling bin.
- Put a used syringe or lancet directly into household garbage or a trashcan.

Syringes should be used only once.

- Newer thinner needles are made for single use.
- Reused syringes are not sterile.

Always check with your healthcare provider before deciding to reuse syringes to see if this practice is safe for you.

**NEVER loan a used syringe to anyone else or share syringes. You can pass diseases or spread infection by sharing needles.**



# Needle safety: Version 1

## Very low literacy


### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

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People with diabetes use sharp objects to check blood sugar and inject insulin. These sharp items should be thrown away safely.

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Counts	
Words	229
Characters	1043
Paragraphs	20
Sentences	16
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.2
Words per Sentence	12.6
Characters per Word	4.4
Readability	
Passive Sentences	0%
Flesch Reading Ease	74.7
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	5.9

OK

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

#### NEEDLE SAFETY

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- Use a glass jar.
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# Needle safety: Version 2

## Low literacy

### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

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### Starting Insulin – a patient guide

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**NEVER loan a used syringe to anyone else or share syringes. You can pass diseases or spread infection by sharing needles.**

A screenshot of a software window titled "Readability Statistics". It displays various metrics for a piece of text. The window has a standard title bar with a question mark and a close button. The data is organized into three sections: Counts, Averages, and Readability.

Readability Statistics	
<b>Counts</b>	
Words	313
Characters	1505
Paragraphs	22
Sentences	23
<b>Averages</b>	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.2
Words per Sentence	12.9
Characters per Word	4.6
<b>Readability</b>	
Passive Sentences	0%
Flesch Reading Ease	64.6
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	7.4
OK	

# Many opportunities for “don’t do” errors when patients inject insulin

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Home → Medical Encyclopedia → Giving an insulin injection

## Giving an insulin injection

To give an insulin injection, you need to fill the right syringe with the right amount of medicine, decide where to give the injection, and know how to give the injection.

### Getting Ready

Your health care provider or a certified diabetes educator (CDE) will teach you all of these steps, watch you practice, and answer your questions. You may take notes to remember the details.

Know the name and dose of each medicine to give. The type of insulin should match the type of syringe:

- Standard insulin contains 100 units in 1 mL. This is also called U-100 insulin. Most insulin syringes are marked for giving you U-100 insulin. Every notch on a standard 1 mL insulin syringe is 1 unit of insulin.
- More concentrated insulins are now available. These include U-500 and U-300. Because U-500 syringes may be difficult to find, your provider may give you instructions for using U-500 insulin with U-100 syringes. Insulin syringes or concentrated insulin are now widely available. **DO NOT** mix or dilute their concentrated insulin with any other insulin.
- Some types of insulin can be mixed with each other in one syringe, **but many cannot be mixed**. Check with your provider or pharmacist about this.

Other general tips:

- Always** use the same brands and types of supplies. **DO NOT** use expired insulin.
- Insulin **should be** given at room temperature. If you had it in the refrigerator or cooler bag, take it out 30 minutes before the injection. Once you have started using a vial of insulin, it can be kept at room temperature for a month.
- Gather your supplies: insulin, needles, syringes, alcohol wipes, and a container for used

Retrieved from <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000660.htm>

Related MedlinePlus Health Topics

- Diabetes
- Diabetes in Children and Teens
- Diabetes Medicines
- Diabetes Type 1
- Diabetes Type 2

## Hazards—potential errors to prevent

### Filling the Syringe - One Type of Insulin

To fill a syringe with one type of insulin:

- Wash your hands with soap and water. Dry them well.
- Check the insulin bottle label. **Make sure** it is the right insulin. **Make sure** it is not expired.
- The insulin **should not** have any clumps on the sides of the bottle. If it does, throw it out and get another bottle.
- Intermediate-acting insulin (N or NPH) is cloudy, and **must be** rolled between your hands to mix it. **DO NOT** shake the bottle. This can make the insulin clump.
- Clear insulin does not need to be mixed.
- If the insulin vial has a plastic cover, take it off. Wipe the top of the bottle with an alcohol wipe. Let it dry. **DO NOT** blow on it.
- Know the dose of insulin you are going to use. Take the cap off the needle, being **careful not to** touch the needle to keep it sterile. Pull back the plunger of the syringe to put as much air in the syringe as the dose of medicine you want.
- Put the needle into and through the rubber top of the insulin bottle. Push the plunger so the air goes into the bottle.
- Keep the needle in the bottle and turn the bottle upside down.
- With the tip of the needle in the liquid, pull back on the plunger to get the right dose of insulin into the syringe.
- Check** the syringe for air bubbles. If there are bubbles, hold both the bottle and syringe in one hand, and tap the syringe with your other hand. The bubbles will float to the top. Push the bubbles back into the insulin bottle, then pull back to get the right dose.
- When there are no bubbles, take the syringe out of the bottle. Put the syringe down **carefully** so the needle does not touch anything.

# Many opportunities for “don’t do” errors when patients inject insulin – cont.

## Filling the Syringe - Two Types of Insulin

To fill a syringe with two types of insulin:

- **Never** mix two types of insulin in one syringe unless you are told to do this. You will also be told which insulin to draw up first. **Always** do it in that order.
- Your doctor will tell you how much of each insulin you will need. Add these two numbers together. This is the amount of insulin you should have in the syringe before injecting it.
- Wash your hands with soap and water. Dry them well.
- Check the insulin bottle label. **Make sure** it is the right insulin.
- The insulin **should not** have any clumps on the sides of the bottle. If it does, throw it out and get another bottle.
- Intermediate-acting insulin is cloudy, and **must be** rolled between your hands to mix it. **DO NOT** shake the bottle. This can make the insulin clump.
- Clear insulin does not need to be mixed.
- If the vial has a plastic cover, take it off. Wipe the top of the bottle with an alcohol wipe. Let it dry. **DO NOT** blow on it.
- Know the dose of each insulin you are going to use. Take the cap off the needle. **being careful** not to touch the needle to keep it sterile. Pull back the plunger of the syringe to put as much air in the syringe as the dose of the longer-acting insulin.
- Put the needle into the rubber top of that insulin bottle. Push the plunger so the air goes into the bottle. Remove the needle from the bottle.
- Put the air in the short-acting insulin bottle the same way as the previous two steps above.
- Keep the needle in the short-acting bottle and turn the bottle upside down.
- With the tip of the needle in the liquid, pull back on the plunger to get the right dose of insulin into the syringe.
- **Check** the syringe for air bubbles. If there are bubbles, hold both the bottle and syringe in one hand, and tap the syringe with your other hand. The bubbles will float to the top. Push the bubbles back into the insulin bottle, then pull back to get the right dose.
- When there are no bubbles, take the syringe out of the bottle. **Look at it again to make sure** you have the right dose.
- Put the needle into the rubber top of the longer-acting insulin bottle.
- Turn the bottle upside down. With the tip of the needle in the liquid, slowly pull back on the plunger to exactly the right dose of long-acting insulin. **DO NOT** draw extra insulin in the syringe, since you **should not** push the mixed insulin back into the bottle.
- Check the syringe for air bubbles. If there are bubbles, hold both the bottle and syringe in one hand, and tap the syringe with your other hand. The bubbles will float to the top. Remove the needle from the bottle before you push out the air.
- **Make sure** you have the right total dose of insulin. Put the syringe down **carefully** so the needle does not touch anything.

## Giving the Injection

Choose where to give the injection. Keep a chart of places you have used, so you **do not** put the insulin in the same place all the time. Ask your doctor for a chart.

- Keep your shots 1 inch ( 2.5 centimeters, cm) away from scars and 2 inches (5 cm) away from your navel.
- **DO NOT** put a shot in a spot that is bruised, swollen, or tender.

The site you choose for the injection **should be** clean and dry. If your skin is visibly dirty, clean it with soap and water. **DO NOT** use an alcohol wipe on your injection site.

The insulin **needs to go** into the fat layer under the skin.

- Pinch the skin and put the needle in at a 45° angle.
- If your tissues are thick enough, you may be able to inject straight up and down (90° angle). Check with your provider before doing this.
- Push the needle all the way into the skin. Let go of the pinched skin. Inject the insulin slowly and steadily until it is all in.
- Leave the syringe in place for 5 seconds after injecting.

Pull the needle out at the same angle it went in. Put the syringe down. There is no need to recap it. If insulin tends to leak from your injection site, press the injection site for a few seconds after the injection. If this happens often, check with your health care provider. You may change the site or the injection angle.

Place the needle and syringe in a safe hard container. Close the container, and **keep it safely** away from children and animals. **Never** reuse needles or syringes.

If you're injecting more than 50 to 90 units of insulin in one injection, your provider may tell you to split the doses either at different times or using different sites for the same injection. This is because bigger volumes of insulin may get weakened without being absorbed.

## Storing Your Insulin and Supplies

Ask your pharmacist how to store your insulin so it doesn't go bad. **Never** put insulin in the freezer. **Don't** store it in your car on warm days.

<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000660.htm>



# Possible Insulin Errors

- Self-administration errors
- Self-monitoring errors
- Improper insertion technique
- Bad drawing-up procedure
- Insulin timing
- Using the wrong insulin
- Miscalculating insulin sensitivity factor
- Using an incorrect carbohydrate ratio
- Not checking blood glucose 2 hours after injecting

# Activity

- List the actions required to inject insulin (choose syringe or pen).
- How would you educate a patient to complete this task ?
- Use action verbs, Plain Language, & Bloom's taxonomy.

# List actions required to inject insulin

(E.g., look at vial/pen to identify name/type of insulin)


# Handout

## Calculating Your Insulin Doses

- [illegible]

# Problem Solving



## Diabetes Disaster Averted #51: Careful Listening Saves Lives

**A few years ago, I was working as a Nurse Practitioner in an endocrinology practice. One of my longstanding elderly patients, age 82, called me to report that the paramedics had to come to her house because she passed out....**

I scheduled her for an appointment the next day, and took her history. She'd had diabetes for about 15 years, and was taking a long acting insulin at bedtime and rapid acting insulin before her meals. I reviewed her activities of the day (meal times, insulin doses and times, and activity level). She reported that she had her dinner, and then next thing she knew she was passed out at the dinner table. I performed a complete physical exam, which was normal. I was ready to order a battery of lab tests, and considering testing her for gastroparesis since it appeared that she'd had a severe hypoglycemic reaction so soon after eating.

I reviewed her recent episode with her again, stating "so you ate your dinner, and then you passed out..." at which point she interrupted with "no, I did not eat my dinner, I HAD it, it was right in front of me on the table, and then I passed out...." The conclusion was that she had a severe hypoglycemic reaction because she delayed her dinner. }

*Lesson learned: Obtain a complete history from the patient, choosing words carefully, and make sure you and your patient are speaking the same language and have the same meaning! The lesson learned from this case saved a lot of time and money from unnecessary testing and work up.*

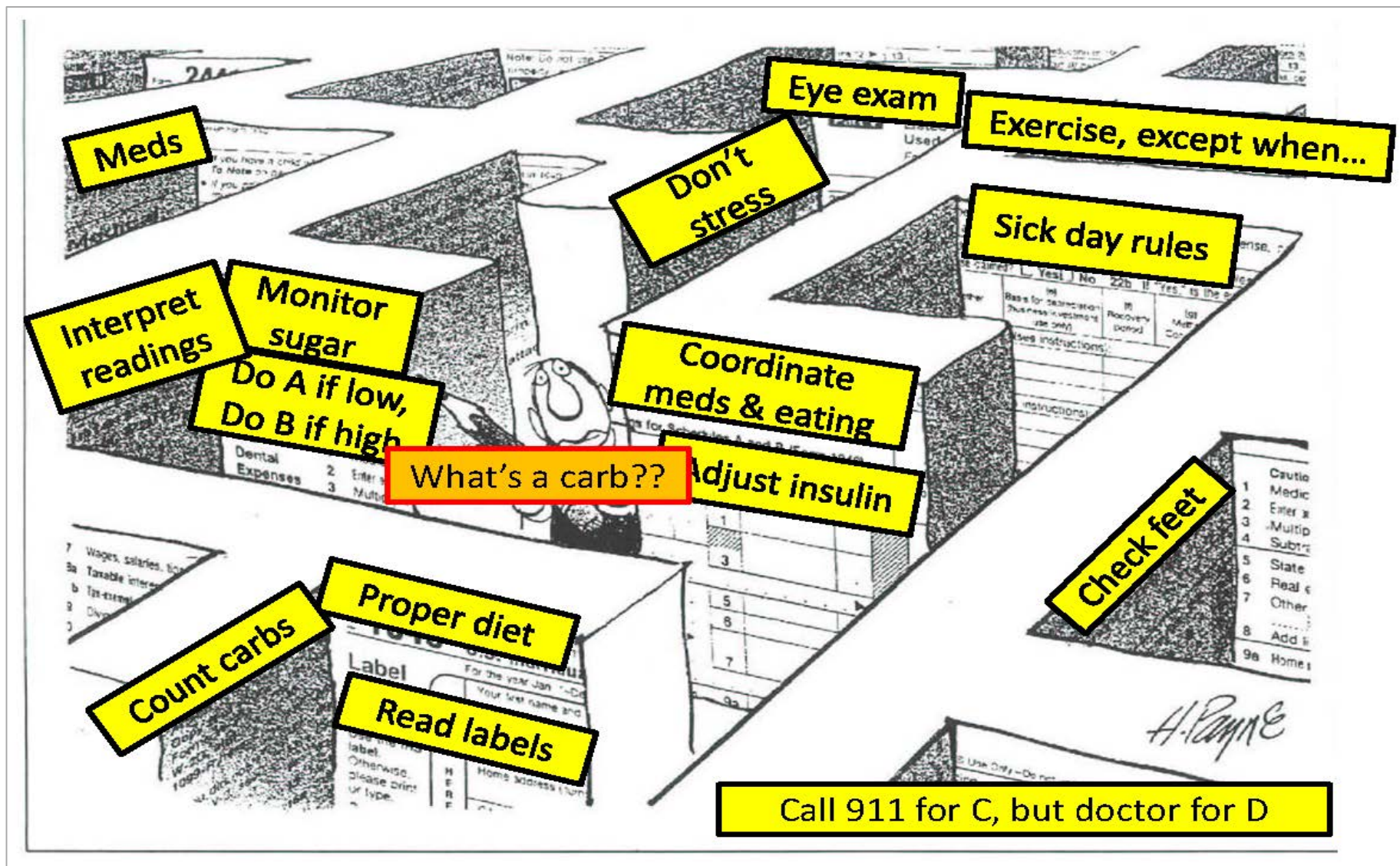
Louise DeRiso, MSN, CRNP, CCRC

Coordinator, Vascular Clinical & Translational Research Center

University of Pittsburgh

She did not accurately **remember** ("eat dinner") the DM ed,  
She did not **understand** ("eat vs *had* meal"),  
Could not **apply** instructions appropriately,  
Could not **analyze** her situation  
Could not **evaluate** what she did wrong

Recall





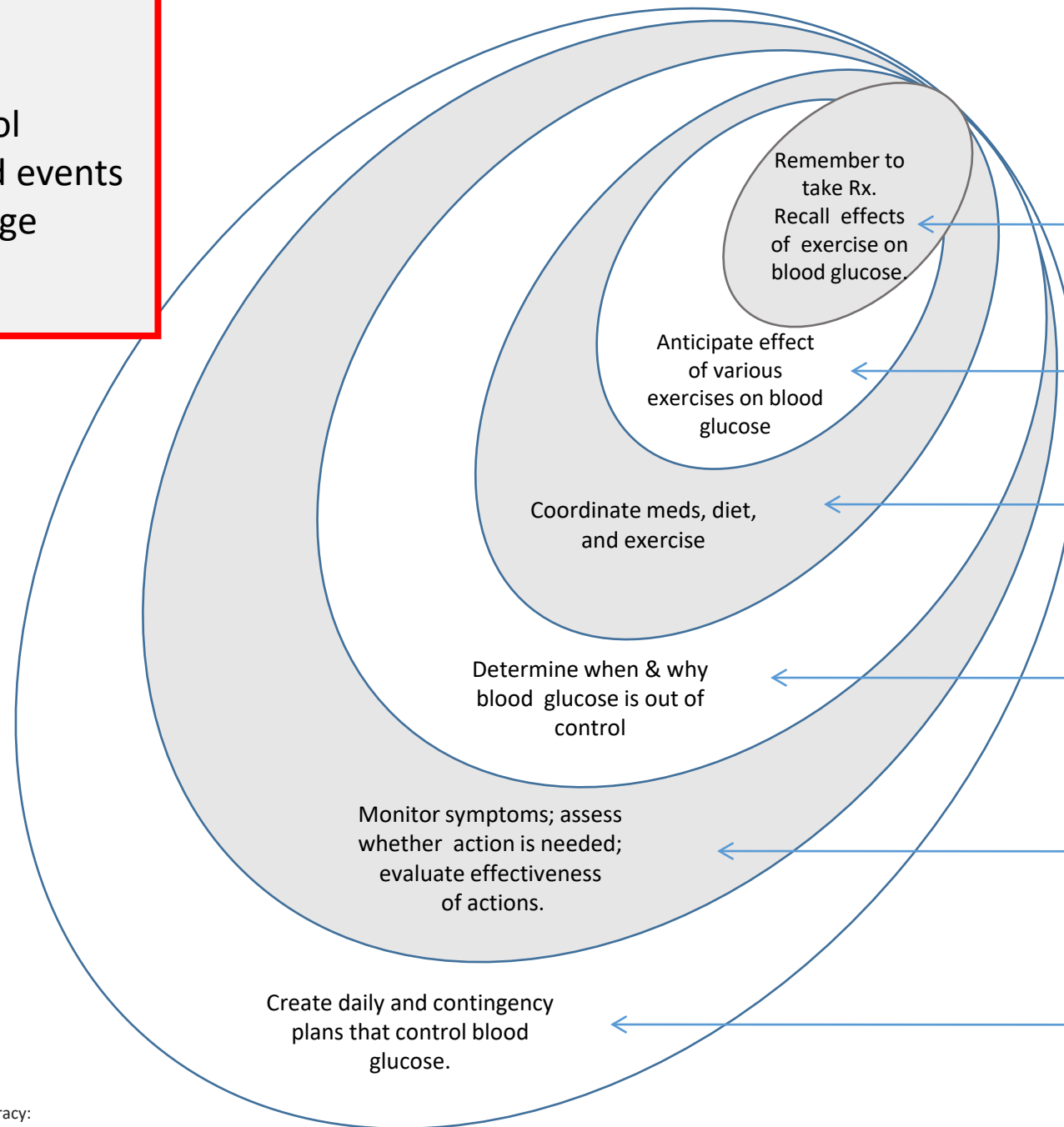
# Good glucose control requires good judgment

- ▶ **IT IS NOT** mechanically following a recipe
- ▶ **IT IS** keeping a complex metabolic system under control in often unpredictable circumstances (like accident prevention process)
  - ▶ Coordinate a regimen having multiple interacting elements
  - ▶ Adjust parts as needed to maintain good control of system buffeted by many other factors
  - ▶ Anticipate lag time between (in)action and system response
  - ▶ Monitor advance “hidden” indicators (blood glucose) to prevent system veering badly out of control
  - ▶ Decide appropriate type and timing of corrective action if system veering off-track
  - ▶ Monitor/control other shocks to system (infection, emotional stress)
  - ▶ Coordinate regimen with other daily activities
  - ▶ Plan ahead (meals, meds, etc.)
    - ▶ For the expected
    - ▶ For the unexpected and unpredictable
  - ▶ Prioritize conflicting demands on time and behavior

## DSM Goals

- Keep BG under control
- Deal with unexpected events
- Prevent and/or manage complications

Recall



## Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives (cognitive domain)

### *Simplest tasks*

#### 1. Remember

recognize, recall, identify, retrieve

#### 2. Understand

paraphrase, summarize, compare, predict, infer,

#### 3. Apply

execute familiar task,, apply procedure to unfamiliar task

#### 4. Analyze

distinguish, focus, select, integrate, coordinate

#### 5. Evaluate

check, monitor, detect inconsistencies, judge effectiveness

#### 6. Create

hypothesize, plan, invent, devise, design

### *Most complex tasks*

# How readable?

## Blood Sugar Too High or Too Low?

Keeping your blood sugar in control helps you stay healthy and feel good.

**"Hypoglycemia" is when your blood sugar is too low.**  
"Hypo" means "low" and "glycemia" means "sugar." Hypoglycemia can happen when you:

- Do not eat enough
- Skip a meal
- Exercise without eating
- Eat later than normal
- Drink alcohol
- Take too much medicine
- Get sick

This can make you feel dizzy, shaky, weak and cause your heart to beat fast. You might not be able to see well and your fingers may feel numb.

If you test your blood sugar and it is less than 70, then have some fruit juice, milk, crackers or something sweet.

Test your blood sugar again in 15 minutes. If your blood sugar is still low, then contact your healthcare provider.



**"Hyperglycemia" is when your blood sugar is too high.**

"Hyper" means "high" and "glycemia" means "sugar." Hyperglycemia can happen when you:

- Eat too much food
- Do not exercise
- Forget to take your medicine
- Take the wrong amount of medicine
- Are under stress
- Are sick

This can make you feel tired or thirsty, and can cause blurry vision, hunger, and headaches. Sometimes if your sugar is high for a long time, then you may have to pee a lot. It might take cuts or sores a longer time to heal.

If your blood sugar is high, then you need to think about what you ate, if you ate more than usual, if you took your medicine or the right amount of medicine, or if there was some change in your exercise. If your sugar is high, then your medicine might need to be changed. If your blood sugar is more than 400, then you need to see a healthcare provider right away.



# Does readable = understandable = cognitively accessible?

## Blood Sugar Too High or Too Low?

Keeping your blood sugar in control helps you stay healthy and feel good.

### "Hypoglycemia" is when your blood sugar is too low.

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If you test your blood sugar and it is less than 70, then have some fruit juice, milk, crackers or something sweet.

Test your blood sugar again in 15 minutes. If your blood sugar is still low, then contact your healthcare provider.

Counts	
Words	328
Characters	1498
Paragraphs	28
Sentences	20
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	1.8
Words per Sentence	13.5
Characters per Word	4.3
Readability	
Passive Sentences	0%
Flesch Reading Ease	74.3
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	6.2



### "Hyperglycemia" is when your blood sugar is too high.

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# Traveling with diabetes – How can you improve these instructions?

1. Plan ahead
2. Talk to your healthcare provider
3. Pack everything you need
4. Know TSA rules
5. Keep everything with you
6. Know your time zone
7. Know when to take medication
8. Get information about how to prevent DVTs
9. Protect yourself against dehydration on long plane trips
10. Guard against infection; use hand sanitizer
11. Plan for activity
12. Plan for local foods
13. Always have a glucose source
14. Be ready for disruptions in schedules, lost luggage, etc.

# Reducing Risks

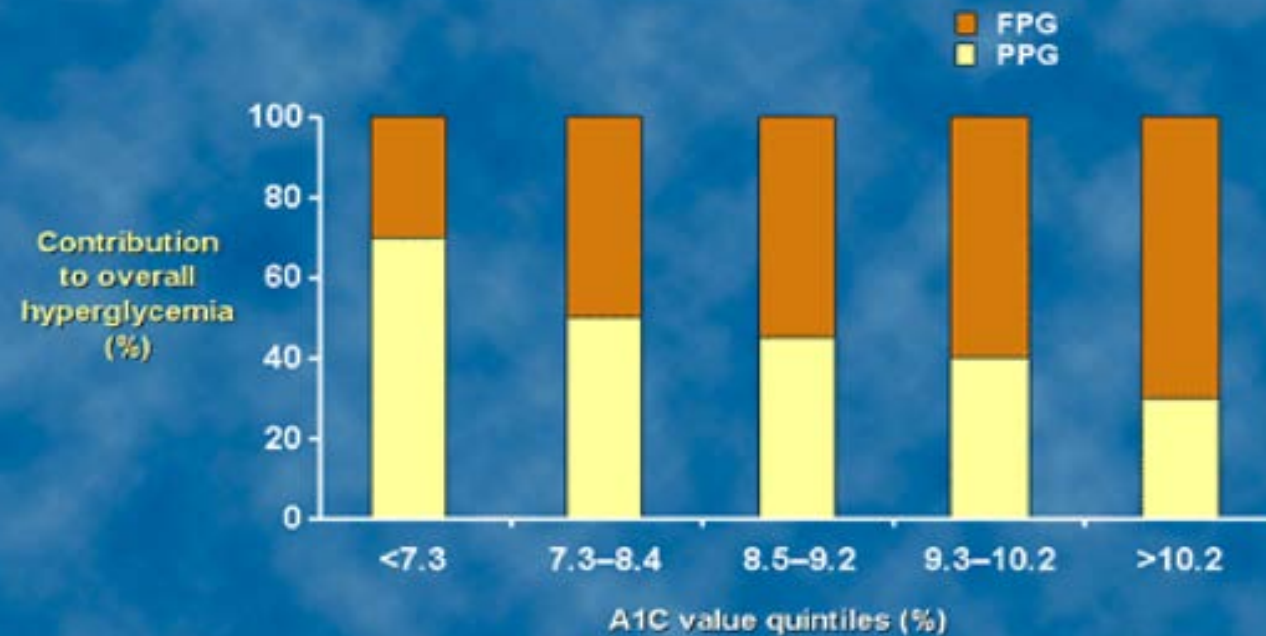




A1c (%)	eAG (mg/dL) Estimated Average Glucose
6.0	126
6.5	140
7.0	154
7.5	169
8.0	183
8.5	197
9.0	212
9.5	226
10.0	240
American Diabetes Association: <a href="http://www.diabetes.org/professional/eAG">www.diabetes.org/professional/eAG</a>	



## The Contribution of PPG to Hyperglycemia Increases as A1C Improves



Monnier L et al. *Diabetes Care*. 2003;26:881-885.

PPG = post-prandial glucose

# Foot Care

Dr. Najafi, professor of surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, said that in 2015, approximately one-third of all diabetes-related costs in the United States were spent on diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs). “Unfortunately, many DFUs end up in amputation, which could devastate patients and their families,” he said.

“On the same note, persons within the lowest income brackets are estimated to have 38% higher amputation rate, compared with those in the highest income bracket.

All these highlight an important gap in effective management of DFUs, in particular among poor working-class people.”

Eye Care:

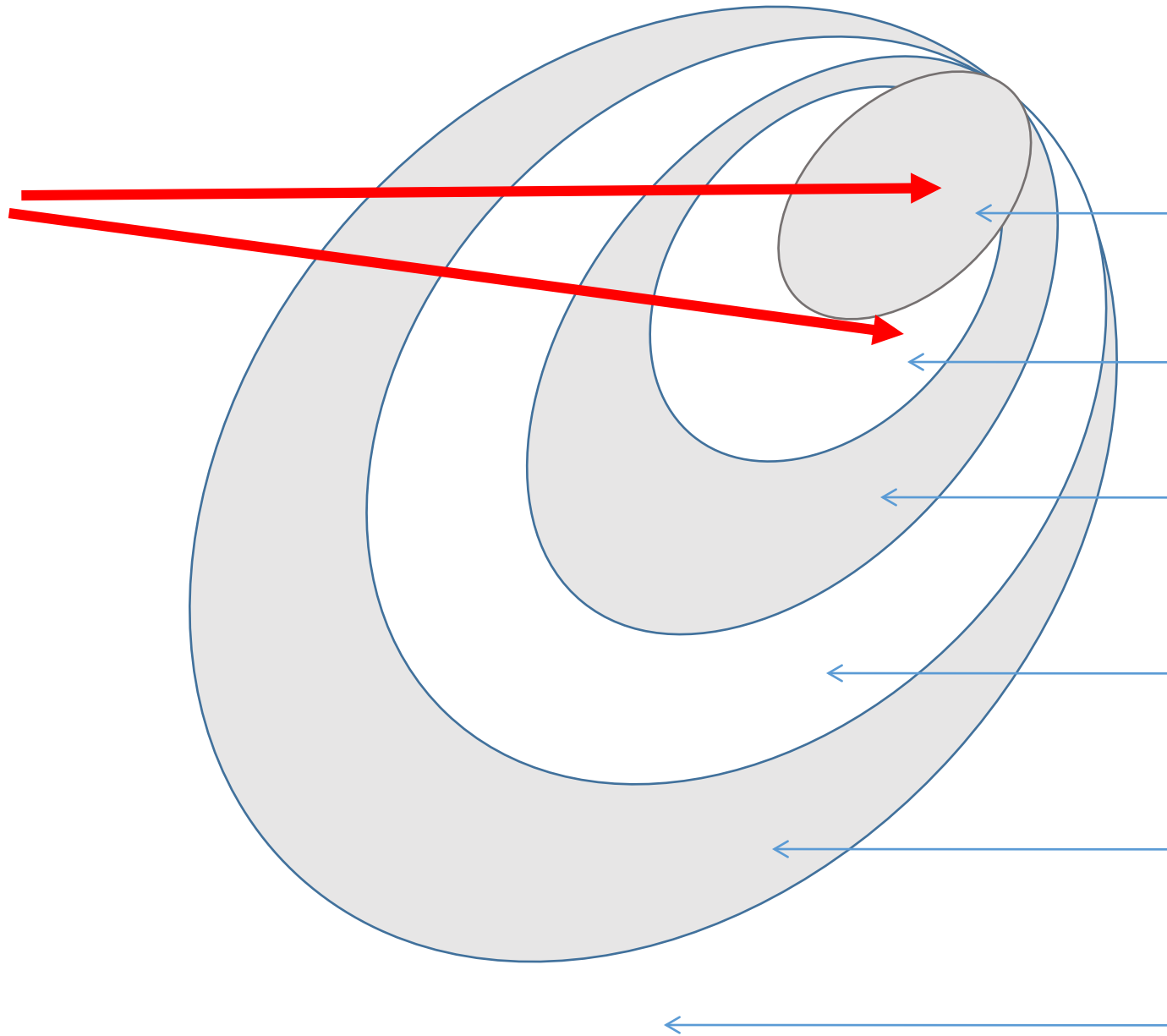
Eye exam

vs

*Dilated* Retinal Eye Exam

Foot Care

Eye Care



Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives (cognitive domain)

*Simplest tasks*

1. Remember

recognize, recall,  
Identify, retrieve

2. Understand

paraphrase, summarize,  
compare, predict, infer,

3. Apply

execute familiar task,,  
apply procedure to  
unfamiliar task

4. Analyze

distinguish, focus, select,  
integrate, coordinate

5. Evaluate

check, monitor, detect  
inconsistencies, judge  
effectiveness

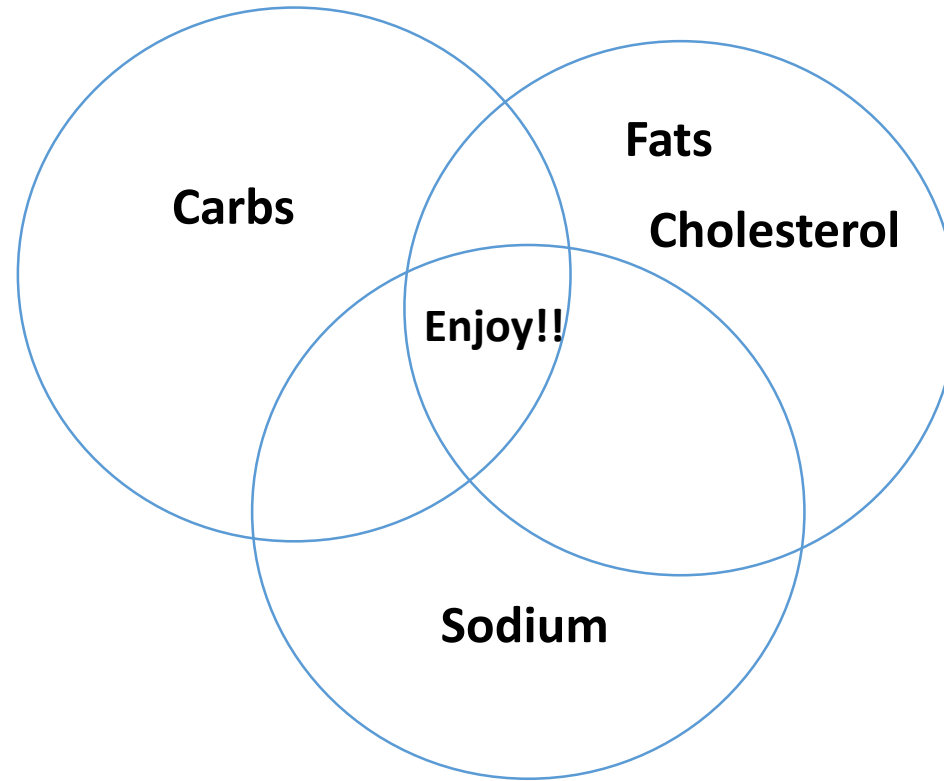
6. Create

hypothesize, plan, invent,  
devise, design

*Most complex tasks*

# CVD Risk Reduction

## Dietary Requirements





## Macaroni and Cheese

# Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 cup (240g)  
Servings Per Container 2

### Amount Per Serving

% Daily Value\*

**Total Fat** 12g

Saturated Fat 3g

**Cholesterol** 30mg

**Sodium** 470mg

**Total Carbohydrate** 31g

Dietary Fiber 0g

Distracting, non-relevant  
information makes a task  
*more* complex.

*Eliminating* non-relevant  
information makes a task  
*less* complex

# Healthy Coping



DSMES

Recall

# Person's cognitive access to information

(1)

(2)

(3)

Cognitive access = person's mental resources – task's cognitive demands

But

Both resources and demands can rise or fall

DSMES aims to assess both

DSMES aims to increase (2) and decrease (3)

Recall

## Checklist for assessing patient's cognitive resources, help, &amp; drains in learning and doing self-care tasks

Check all items that apply to this patient or group.

Cognitive resources available to patient			
Own cognitive ability level (under favorable conditions)			
Single Item Literacy Screen			
"How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy?"			
Patient's response (check one)	Literacy level	Extra cognitive help needed	Risk of critical error
<input type="checkbox"/> Always	Very low	Strong	Very high
<input type="checkbox"/> Often	Low	Moderate	High
<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely	Moderate to high	Minimal	Occasional
<input type="checkbox"/> Never			
Cognitive help from other people			
Family			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative (confuse, burden, discourage, misinform, etc.)		
Neighborhood & friends			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative		
Support groups			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative		
Health care providers			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good		
<input type="checkbox"/>	So-so		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative		

Cognitive drains likely to interfere with patient fully using available cognitive resources	
Emotional	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anxiety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family conflict
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fear
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frustration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shame
<input type="checkbox"/>	Worry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
Physical	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol & drugs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hunger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleep deprived
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
Situational	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distractions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interruptions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of privacy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise pollution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temperature too hot or cold
<input type="checkbox"/>	Time pressure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Difficult work or family schedule
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

How do you assess a patient's  
coping ability  
and/or barriers to adherence ?

### ***Self-efficacy***

Self-efficacy is the belief that one can tackle a task without any assistance.<sup>20</sup> Social-cognitive models of behavior show self-efficacy as a predictor of health behavior change. Self-efficacy predicts the formation of behavioral intentions and the development and implementation of an action plan.<sup>21</sup> One way to determine a patient's self-efficacy is to ask questions pertaining to their level of confidence to perform a specific task, such as "How confident are you that you can take your medications on a daily basis?" If the patient does not believe they are capable of following a plan of care because they have not reached a level of self-efficacy, they will most likely not adhere.

Regardless of whether these predictors of adherence exist, there are additional "risk factors" that could explain why your patient may be non-adherent. Once suspicion is raised, it is important to take the next step and attempt to measure medication adherence. Although multiple objective and subjective tools exist, there is no single, gold standard.

### **Characteristics of Patients at HIGH Risk of Non-Adherence**

- Not refilling an Rx
- Forgetfulness
- Poor eyesight
- Depression
- Language barrier
- Cultural gaps
- Poor coping skills
- Missing appointments
- Multiple co-morbidities
- Lack of trust in their provider
- No prescription drug coverage
- Inadequate response to therapy or lack of appropriate follow-up
- Does not understand their condition
- Medical condition without symptoms



# The Illness Perception Questionnaire

[Home](#)
[Using and Scoring the IPQ](#)
[IPQ](#)
[IPQ-R](#)
[Brief IPQ](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Articles](#)

Research using a variety of different assessment techniques suggests patients cluster their ideas about an illness around five coherent themes or components, assess health risk, and direct action and coping. Each of these components holds a perception about one aspect of the illness and together they provide the individual

The major cognitive components identified from research are: Identity - which is comprised of the label of the illness and the symptoms the patient views as being the patient believes the illness will last. These can be categorised into acute, chronic or episodic; Consequences - expected effects and outcome of the illness; and

These components show logical interrelationships. For example a strong belief that the illness can be cured or controlled is typically associated with short perceptions with more severe consequences perceptions and lower beliefs about cure or control of the disease.

An important question that we have little information on at present is where do illness beliefs come from? It is likely that people build up knowledge and impressions of illness they develop perceptions of illness is diverse and ranges from first hand experiences with a family member who may suffer from an illness, to information from the relatives and friends as well as the media.

Patient cognitive models of their illness are, by their nature, private. Patients are often reluctant to discuss their beliefs about their illness in medical consultations because they fear being seen as patients to elaborate their own ideas of the their illness. However, recently a questionnaire has been developed to measure illness perceptions in a variety of illnesses. This questionnaire is used to assess these components is shown below.

Component	Items
Identity	Rating of a number of symptoms that the patient sees as part of the illness. Examples from the CFS Identity scale include; nausea, sore or swollen glands, forgetfulness, dizziness, stiff or sore joints, fatigue after
Cause	A germ or virus caused my illness. Pollution of the environment caused my illness. Stress was a major factor in causing my illness.
Timeline	My illness is likely to be permanent rather than temporary. My illness will last for a long time.
Consequences	My illness has major consequences on my life. My illness is a serious condition.
Cure-Control	There is little that can be done to improve my illness. My treatment will be effective in curing my illness.

Illness perceptions has a wide variety of uses in the health psychology area. Illness perceptions have been used to explain behaviour following heart attacks, responses to cancer screening, rheumatoid arthritis.

Languages

Illnesses

Acknowledgements

make up the patient's perception of their illness. The components provide a framework for patients to make sense of their symptoms, etc.

Asthma  
which may include simple single causes or more complex multiple causal models; Time-line - how long

Acute Pain  
at, beliefs that an illness will last a long time and has a number of symptoms tends to be associated

Autism (French)  
r diseases. It is not necessary to have had direct experience with an illness. The source of people's

Chronic Pain  
until they are activated by their own illness or someone close to them.

CFS  
Recently, assessment of illness perceptions has been by open-ended interviews designed to encourage

Diabetes  
a dimensions by asking patients for their own beliefs about their condition. Example of the questions

Fatigue (Dutch)

Hemofilia (Spanish)

HIV

HIV (German)

Hypertension

Genetic Predisposition

Genetic Predisposition (Italian)

RA

STD  
drome, how patients cope with cancer treatment, and a variety of illnesses such as diabetes and



**YOUR VIEWS ABOUT YOUR DIABETES**

Listed below are a number of symptoms that you may or may not have experienced since your diabetes. Please indicate by circling *Yes* or *No*, whether you have experienced any of these symptoms since your diabetes, and whether you believe that these symptoms are related to your diabetes.

	I have experienced this symptom <i>since my diabetes</i>			This symptom is <i>related to my</i> <i>diabetes</i>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Pain					
Sore Throat					
Nausea					
Breathlessness					
Weight Loss					
Fatigue					
Stiff Joints					
Sore Eyes					
Wheeziness					
Headaches					
Upset Stomach					
Sleep Difficulties					
Dizziness					
Loss of Strength					

We are interested in your own personal views of how you now see your current diabetes.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your diabetes by ticking the appropriate box.

	VIEWS ABOUT YOUR DIABETES	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
IP1	My diabetes will last a short time					
IP2	My diabetes is likely to be permanent rather than temporary					
IP3	My diabetes will last for a long time					

	VIEWS ABOUT YOUR DIABETES	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	ACREE	STRONGLY ACREE
IP4 <sup>a</sup>	This diabetes will pass quickly					
IP5 <sup>a</sup>	I expect to have this diabetes for the rest of my life					
IP6	My diabetes is a serious condition					
IP7	My diabetes has major consequences on my life					
IP8 <sup>a</sup>	My diabetes does not have much effect on my life					
IP9	My diabetes strongly affects the way others see me					
IP10	My diabetes has serious financial consequences					
IP11	My diabetes causes difficulties for those who are close to me					
IP12	There is a lot which I can do to control my symptoms					
IP13	What I do can determine whether my diabetes gets better or worse					
IP14	The course of my diabetes depends on me					
IP15 <sup>a</sup>	Nothing I do will affect my diabetes					
IP16	I have the power to influence my diabetes					
IP17 <sup>a</sup>	My actions will have no affect on the outcome of my diabetes					
IP18 <sup>a</sup>	My diabetes will improve in time					

IP19*	There is very little that can be done to improve my diabetes					
IP20	My treatment will be effective in curing my diabetes					
IP21	The negative effects of my diabetes can be prevented (avoided) by my treatment					
IP22	My treatment can control my diabetes					
IP23*	There is nothing which can help my condition					
IP24	The symptoms of my condition are puzzling to me					
IP25	My diabetes is a mystery to me					

IP26	I don't understand my diabetes					
IP27	My diabetes doesn't make any sense to me					
IP28*	I have a clear picture or understanding of my condition					
IP29	The symptoms of my diabetes change a great deal from day to day					
IP30	My symptoms come and go in cycles					
IP31	My diabetes is very unpredictable					
IP32	I go through cycles in which my diabetes gets better and worse.					
IP33	I get depressed when I think about my diabetes					
IP34	When I think about my diabetes I get upset					
IP35	My diabetes makes me feel angry					
IP36*	My diabetes does not worry me					
IP37	Having this diabetes makes me feel anxious					
IP38	My diabetes makes me feel afraid					

THE DIABETES DISTRESS SCREENING SCALE

**DIRECTIONS:** Living with diabetes can sometimes be tough. There may be many problems and hassles concerning diabetes and they can vary greatly in severity. Problems may range from minor hassles to major life difficulties. Listed below are 2 potential problem areas that people with diabetes may experience. Consider the degree to which each of the 2 items may have distressed or bothered you DURING THE PAST MONTH and circle the appropriate number.

Please note that we are asking you to indicate the degree to which each item may be bothering you in your life, NOT whether the item is merely true for you. If you feel that a particular item is not a bother or a problem for you, you would circle "1". If it is very bothersome to you, you might circle "6".

	Not a Problem	A Slight Problem	A Moderate Problem	Somewhat Serious Problem	A Serious Problem	A Very Serious Problem
1. Feeling overwhelmed by the demands of living with diabetes.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Feeling that I am often failing with my diabetes routine.	1	2	3	4	5	6

	Not a Problem	A Slight Problem	A Moderate Problem	Somewhat Serious Problem	A Serious Problem	A Very Serious Problem
1. Feeling that diabetes is taking up too much of my mental and physical energy every day.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Feeling that my doctor doesn't know enough about diabetes and diabetes care.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Feeling angry, scared, and/or depressed when I think about living with diabetes.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Feeling that my doctor doesn't give me clear enough directions on how to manage my diabetes.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Feeling that I am not testing my blood sugars frequently enough.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Feeling that I am often failing with my diabetes routine.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Feeling that friends or family are not supportive enough of self-care efforts (e.g. planning activities that conflict with my schedule, encouraging me to eat the "wrong" foods).	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Feeling that diabetes controls my life.	1	2	3	4	5	6

	Not a Problem	A Slight Problem	A Moderate Problem	Somewhat Serious Problem	A Serious Problem	A Very Serious Problem
9. Feeling that my doctor doesn't take my concerns seriously enough.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. Not feeling confident in my day-to-day ability to manage diabetes.	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Feeling that I will end up with serious long-term complications, no matter what I do.	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Feeling that I am not sticking closely enough to a good meal plan.	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. Feeling that friends or family don't appreciate how difficult living with diabetes can be.	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. Feeling overwhelmed by the demands of living with diabetes.	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Feeling that I don't have a doctor who I can see regularly enough about my diabetes.	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. Not feeling motivated to keep up my diabetes self management.	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Feeling that friends or family don't give me the emotional support that I would like.	1	2	3	4	5	6

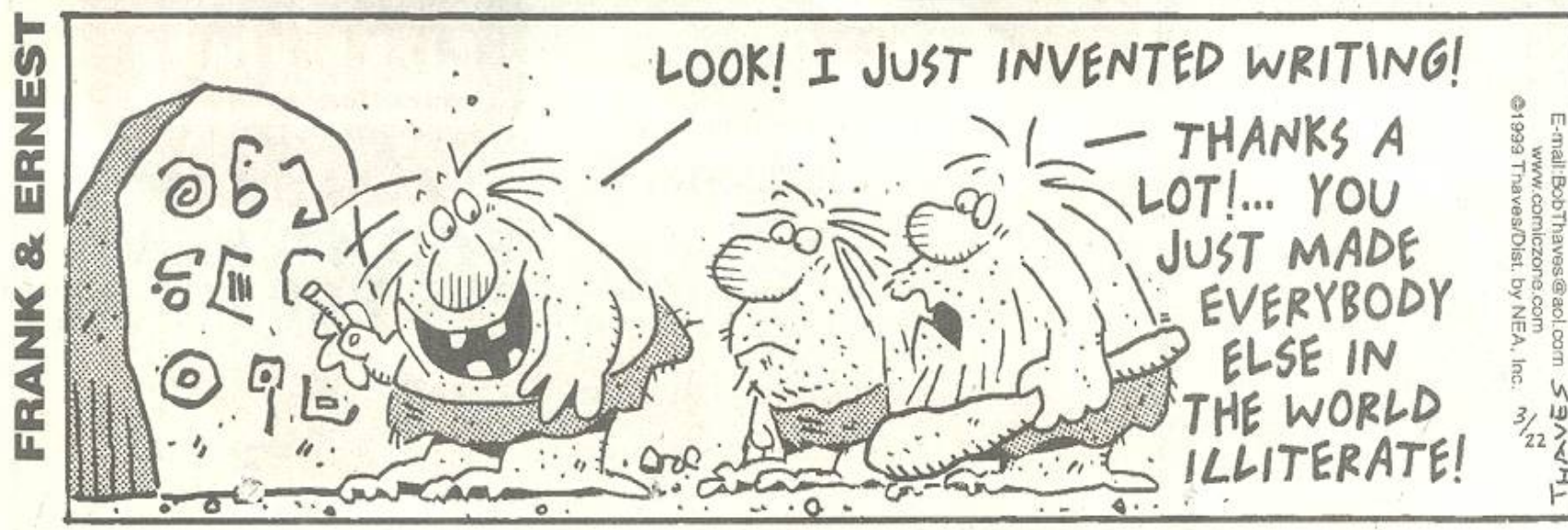


Are these assessment tools cognitively accessible to patients ?

If not.....

How do you assess a patient's coping ability  
and barriers to adherence ?

Smart people busy making life more complex



**Goal = make DSM more cognitively accessible.**



Linda Gottfredson     [gottfred@udel.edu](mailto:gottfred@udel.edu)

Kathy Stroh             [kathy.stroh@westsidehealth.org](mailto:kathy.stroh@westsidehealth.org)

Slides & handouts available at:

[www1.udel.edu/educ/gottfredson/reprints/2017AADEworkshop.pdf](http://www1.udel.edu/educ/gottfredson/reprints/2017AADEworkshop.pdf)

[www1.udel.edu/educ/gottfredson/reprints/2017AADEworkshop-handouts.pdf](http://www1.udel.edu/educ/gottfredson/reprints/2017AADEworkshop-handouts.pdf)