

3.17 Understanding Information from the Doctor Form

To the teacher:

The form on the following page was designed as a support for people who have a hard time understanding and retaining information the doctor gives them. It can also be helpful for people with low literacy skills who are not able to write down information efficiently during a medical appointment or report information clearly to others involved with their care. The patient can ask the doctor or other health care provider to fill in the necessary information so that the patient can show it to a trusted family member or acquaintance later. This trusted person can in turn help the patient process and act on the health care information.

If this form looks like it could be helpful to one of your students, you can explain it to them and role play how they might present it to their health care provider. You can help them brainstorm which trusted people they might share it with after the appointment to get assistance understanding it and acting upon it.

Unfortunately, some providers may not wish to fill out the form and others may charge for the form to be completed, but hopefully your students' providers will understand the wisdom of using such a tool to assist patients with low basic literacy and health literacy in avoiding treatment mistakes.



Understanding Information from My Doctor

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Today's Date: _____

I want to explain my condition to family members or others who help me care for myself. To help me do this, would you please write simple answers to the following questions so I can remember the information?

1. What is my health problem today?

2. What do I need to do for this problem?

3. What problems should I call the doctor for with this treatment?

4. When do I need to see the doctor again?

Doctor's Name: _____

Doctor's Phone Number: _____

Thank you!

