

Appendix 1. Summary of health literacy measurement tools used in Australia and their main features

Measurement tool	Year published, country of origin	Characteristics				Usage in Australia		
		Number and type of items	Delivery time (minutes)	Results when compared with a gold standard	Required competency	Validation sample	General population	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations
Rapid Estimate of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM)	1991, USA ³⁹	66-word recognition and pronunciation test that assesses reading levels.	2.5	Not applicable	General literacy skills	American (54% African American, 46% Caucasian)	Yes	No
Short Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (S-TOFHLA)	1999, USA ⁴⁰	36-item, timed, test of reading comprehension that assesses the patient's ability to read healthcare materials.	<22	Correlation with REALM = 0.80	General literacy skills	American (94% African American, 6% Other)	Yes	No
Newest Vital Sign (NVS)	2005, USA ⁴¹	Six questions relating to an ice-cream nutrition label that assesses patients' health literacy.	3	Correlation with TOFHLA = 0.88	General literacy and numeracy skills	American (93% Caucasian, 7% Other)	Yes	No
Single screening question	2006, USA ²⁵	One self-reported question on a Likert scale to assess whether patients have limited reading ability.	Not stated	AUROC with REALM = 0.73	No literacy or numeracy skills required	American (97% Caucasian, 3% Other)	Yes	Yes
Single screening question	2006, USA ²⁴	One self-reported question on a Likert scale to assess whether patients have limited or marginal health literacy.	Not stated	AUROC with REALM = 0.82 (limited) REALM = 0.79 (limited/marginal)	No literacy or numeracy skills required	American (85% Caucasian, 12% African American, 3% Hispanic)	Yes	No
Three screening questions	2008, USA ²⁶	Up to three self-reported questions on a Likert scale that assesses patient's health literacy.	Not stated	AUROC with TOFHLA = 0.74	No literacy or numeracy skills required	American (72% Caucasian, 19% African American, 9% Other)	Yes	No
Health Literacy Management Scale (HeLMS)	2013, Australia ⁴²	29 self-reported items on a Likert scale that provides a broad, multifaceted view of an individual's health literacy.	7.5	Not compared to gold standard	General literacy skills	Australian	Yes	No
Health Literacy Questionnaire (HLQ)	2013, Australia ¹⁴	44 self-reported items on a Likert scale that assesses health literacy needs, challenges, and capabilities.	7-30	Not compared to gold standard	General literacy skills	Australian and European populations	Yes	Yes
Conversational Health Literacy Tool (CHAT)	2018, Australia ²⁰	Up to 10 structured conversational questions that assesses health literacy challenges, supportive resources and personal circumstances.	Variable	None presented	No literacy or numeracy skills required	Not validated	Yes	No
Yarning Sessions	2020, Australia ¹⁷	Up to 26 structured conversational questions that assesses Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health literacy challenges, supportive resources and personal circumstances.	Variable	None presented	No literacy or numeracy skills required	Not validated	No	Yes

AUROC, area under the receiver operating characteristics