**Health Literacy Definitions**

Title V of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act defines health literacy as, “the degree to which an individual has the capacity to obtain, **communicate**, process, and understand health information and services in order to make appropriate health decisions.”2

**Patients with low health literacy…**

* Are more likely to visit an **emergency room**
* Have more **hospital stays**
* Are less likely to follow **treatment plans**
* Have higher **mortality rates**4



References:

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2. Office of the Legislative Council (2010). Compilation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Retrieved from [URL to source](http://housedocs.house.gov/energycommerce/ppacacon.pdf)
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2010). National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy. Washington, DC.: Author. Retrieved from [URL to source](https://health.gov/communication/hlactionplan/pdf/Health_Literacy_Action_Plan.pdf)
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). Infographic: Health Literacy. Retrieved from: [URL to source](https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/infographics/healthliteracy.htm)