Principles of Shared Decision Making and Health Literacy in the Clinical Setting

Spring 2018

Mondays 9am-12, January 22 – May 7

Richmond Room, TAB, 2nd floor

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Course Description:
This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to principles of shared decision making and health literacy and their implications for clinical communication. Topics will include basic and applied research on shared decision making and decision biases, principles of designing and evaluating patient decision aids, principles of health literacy, research on relationship between health literacy, numeracy, and health outcomes, best practices for communication with individuals who have limited numeracy or health literacy, best practices (and controversies) in communicating probabilities and their associated uncertainty about screening and treatment outcomes, and best practices for designing and evaluating written information for clinical populations (such as intake forms, brochures, and informed consent documents). We will also cover how to navigate potential disagreements in treatment plans. Examples will be tailored to the interests of the students.

Course activities will include interactive lectures, class discussions, class member presentations, guest presentations, and class activities.

Each class activity will be prepared by the instructors or by guest speakers.

Course Competencies:
1. Define shared decision making and health literacy
2. Understand communication skills necessary to engage in SDM
3. Understand principles of designing patient decision support interventions
4. Discuss how health literacy interventions might improve patient outcomes
5. Describe the health literacy demands of the health care system
6. Understand how health literacy and SDM are related to patient centered outcomes
7. Be able to identify appropriate health literacy and SDM measures and outcomes

Evaluation: Grades will be based on: (1) class participation, which includes leading us through a sample clinical encounter in your discipline, or bringing in a print document used in research
or clinical practice, for discussion and feedback from the class (20%); (2) class presentation (30%), and (3) a final paper (50%). See below for more details.

(1) Participation and Sample Dialogue or Document Discussion (20%):

Class participation consists of reading assigned materials prior to class, being prepared to discuss the assigned readings and topics of discussion in class, engaging in and contributing to thoughtful class discussion, and demonstrating respect for the opinions of your peers. Students are required to read all of the articles unless the article says “optional” next to it.

Class members will sign up to lead a discussion for one class session. This will involve leading us through a sample clinical encounter or role play of a topic relevant to health literacy or shared decision making, or bringing in a print document used in your research or clinical practice (with questions about how to improve this from a health literacy or SDM framework).

(2) Presentations (30%):

Class members will sign up to present a project of their choice (relevant to one of the course topics). The presentation can include a “work in progress” or a more finished product such as your final paper project. Class members should plan to present for no more than 15 minutes, followed by class discussion. A presentation template will be provided for guidance.

(3) Final paper (50%):

The final paper will be broken down into sections (due at different points in the semester):

a. topic (1 paragraph) plus background and significance section (about 2-3 pages) (20%) due **March 12 by 9 am**

b. full paper incorporating feedback from first submission (30%) due **April 30 by 9 am**

Please do not miss class because you are finishing up your paper.

The final paper should be about 10 pages double spaced using Arial font size 11 with 1” margins. The final paper can overlap with the class presentation if desired. The paper topic can relate to any topic discussed during the class. There are two options for the paper:

1. An evaluation or critique of an existing strategy used in a clinic, with a solution for how to improve it based on principles of health literacy or shared decision making (or both). Possible paper structure can include a description of the problem (background/significance), a description of possible solutions, and then a selection of one solution and an explanation of how it could work to improve practice.

2. Develop a research proposal for empirically testing an intervention to improve clinical practice based on either a health literacy or shared decision making issue. The structure should include a description of the problem (background/significance), a possible solution or intervention to address the problem, and research methods that will be used to measure and evaluate the intervention.
Please note: We are more than willing to meet to discuss your paper or email with specific questions to help you work through the details. However, we cannot review full paper drafts in advance of the deadline.

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard to manage our class, access assignment instructions, and post course-related questions. Blackboard can be accessed at https://bb.wustl.edu/. Log in with your WUSTL Key, and the course should appear on the homepage. We will use the Discussion threads for general questions related to lecture and assignments. Students should post all general questions that may be relevant to others in class to the Discussion thread. Student-specific questions should be emailed directly to the instructor(s).

Attendance

Class attendance is required. As a courtesy to other students and guest presenters, you are expected to arrive on time. The value of the class stems from the quality of the dialog and conversations with peers and course instructors. If you have more than 2 absences, we will have to work out ways to appropriately make up content missed. Please let me know in advance if you need to miss class.

Laptop Use During Class: Please be considerate of others during class, especially other presenters. Vigorously typing during class and laughing during class about outside conversations is inconsiderate of others. If you have to attend to a clinical matter or an urgent Facebook or Twitter post, please leave the room briefly and return when you are engaged again. Please also see this article about note taking on paper vs. on a laptop:


“even when laptops are used solely to take notes, they may still be impairing learning because their use results in shallower processing.”

Collaborations: Many collaborations result from class discussions and projects. Examples:

(1) Kronzer, V. (2016). Screening for health literacy is not the answer. BMJ 2016;354:i3699


If you have a paper or grant idea that you would like to pursue beyond class, please let me or another MPHS faculty member know. We can help you find collaborators or mentors, and/or can help you write up your idea for a manuscript submission.

**Class sessions:**

**Jan 22: What is Shared Decision Making (SDM)?**
Overview of course; Origins of SDM/practice variation research, Core elements of SDM, SDM and health policy, SDM and health outcomes, SDM and cost

**Class activity:** patient/clinician SDM scenarios, sign up for sample dialogue or discussion day


**Jan 29: Numeracy and Risk Communication—Patients.** Definition of numeracy, how can it influence decision-making, numeracy and health outcomes, strategies to communicate risks to facilitate understanding

**Class activity:** case examples of risk communication strategies and implications of them

**Readings:**


**Feb 5: Risk Communication/Risk Perception—Public (guest lecturer: Lindsay Fuzzell, PhD)** Drug Facts Box, Data in Direct-to-Consumer Ads, Framing Effects, *Your Disease Risk*, Risk communication and the media.

Class activity: *Parents’ Adherence to Pediatric Health and Safety Guidelines: Importance of Provider Communication*

Readings:


**Feb 12: Decision Psychology**
Psychological processes affecting accuracy in medical diagnosis, heuristics, biases affecting medical decisions, conflicts of interest as they affect SDM

Class activity: Interactive activities are incorporated into the lecture, and Conflicts of Interest discussion (Lowenstein article)

Readings:


**Feb 19: Patient Decision Aids**

History of PtDAs, IDPAS, how DAs are incorporated in practice (including implementation in the UK, Canada, Germany, and the US), sample DAs, evaluating PtDAs (IPDASi), who should be responsible for decision communication or administering DAs?

**Class activities:** evaluating a decision aid, evaluating a consultation using the OPTION scale

**Readings:**


**Feb 26: Values Clarification/Preference Elicitation Exercises (guest presenter: Ashley Eskew, MD: SDM and fertility decision making in obese women)**

utility assessments, narratives, balance sheets, diabetes cards, values during the consultation

**Class activity:** evaluating different types of values clarification exercises, fertility decision making

**Readings:**


Politi, M.C., Dizon, D.S., Frosch, D.L., Kuzemchak, M.D., & Stiggelbout, A.S. (2013). Importance of clarifying patients’ desired role in shared decision making to match their level of engagement with their preferences. *BMJ, 347*:f7066


**Optional:** International Patient Decision Aids Standards: 2012 Updated Chapter D. Clarifying and Expressing Values. [http://ipdas.ohri.ca/IPDAS-Chapter-D.pdf](http://ipdas.ohri.ca/IPDAS-Chapter-D.pdf)


**March 5: Informed Consent, Health Literacy, & SDM (Guest Presenter: Jessica Mozersky, PhD, 11 am)** health literacy interventions for informed consent, SDM interventions for informed consent for clinical procedures and clinical research

**Class Activity:** Evaluating existing informed consent documents

**Readings:**

March 12: What is Health Literacy?
Definitions and components of health literacy; epidemiology of health literacy in the U.S.

Class activity: American Medical Association video and discussion

Readings:


https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/learn/index.html

March 19: Health Literacy and SDM (Guest Presenter: Kevin J. Fowler, The Voice of The Patient, Inc) Effect of health literacy on decision making preferences; Health literacy and shared decision making framework; Directions for future research

Class activity: origami instructions

Readings:


*Optional*: McCaffery KJ, Holmes-Rovner M, Smith SK, Rovner D, Nutbeam D, Clayman ML,
March 26: Determinants and Outcomes of Health Literacy (guest presenter: Mychal Voorhees, MA, Community Outreach and Public Health Services Coordinator for Becker Medical Library) Associations between health literacy, health outcomes, and health services use; possible mechanisms; social determinants of health literacy

Class activities: Discussion of pathways by which health literacy impacts health outcomes; guest presentation about variables affecting health literacy

Readings:


April 2: Assessing Health Literacy Demands of Health Care System (class starts at 9:45 am today to make time for the BJC environment exercise)

Assessment of written materials; Health literacy issues in health care system access and navigation

Class activity: Materials assessment; Discussion of assessment of BJC environment

Readings:


Chapter 4


Assignment to complete for class:
Assessment of BJC hospital environment (supplemental handout)

April 9: Assessing Health Literacy of Patients (guest presenter: Richard Griffey, MD, MPH) Objective health literacy measures, subjective health literacy measures, limitations of existing measures

Class activity: Assessment of health literacy skills using common measures; case example from health literacy assessment in ED

Readings:


Kronzer, V. (2016). Screening for health literacy is not the answer. BMJ 2016;354:i3699


April 16: Health Literacy Interventions (Guest Presenter: Susy Stark, PhD, OTR, 10 am, health literacy and older adults) Health literacy interventions; State of the evidence; Directions for future research

Class activity: Discussion of intervention design, example for older adults

Readings:


April 23: Health Literacy, Biases, and Provider-Patient Communication (guest presenter: Sydney Philpott, BA)  
Oral health literacy; health literacy and provider-patient communication; best practices in provider-patient communication

Class activity: Strategies for clear communication with patients, clinician biases in communication

Readings:


April 30: Student Paper/Project Presentations

May 7: Student Paper/Project Presentations