

## Health Numeracy Report for \_\_\_\_\_



This patient's health numeracy score was \_\_\_\_\_

Low Score (-3.0 to -0.45); Medium Score (-0.44 to 0.52), High Numeracy Score (0.53 to 3.0)

Health numeracy reflects a person's ability to understand and use numbers in taking care of their health. Your patient has taken a test of health numeracy. The test consisted of questions that assessed his/her ability to use 1) basic math skills, 2) tables and graphs, 3) basic probability concepts and 4) statistics used in risk communication and medical decision making.

Based on this test, scores are categorized as Low, Medium, or High.

### Patients Health Numeracy Level: High

Concepts Your Patient May Understand	Concepts Difficult Even for Highly Numerate Patients
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stage of disease</li><li>• The use of percentages (such as 50%)</li><li>• Comparing rates with different denominators 1/10 vs. 1/3</li><li>• Converting a percentage (2%) to a frequency format (2/100)</li><li>• Interpreting a survival curve</li><li>• Principles of study design such as the importance of a control group, sample size, and the study population</li><li>• Pictographs (stick figures) displaying small risks with denominators of 1000</li><li>• Concepts of statistical significance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Combining baseline and relative risk information</li><li>• Interpretation of uncertainty and confidence intervals</li><li>• Decimals or rates with a denominator of 1000 (i.e., 0.05% and 5/1000)</li></ul>

### Communication Tips for Numeric Information

- Use a teach-back method to assess patient understanding
- Be sensitive to the fact that patients may feel judged about numeracy skills; keep the tone of the discussion one that is respectful of the patient's numeracy level
- Use lay language but don't avoid numbers altogether. Data shows that non-numeric conversation may lead to overestimation of risk by patients
- When possible, present numbers using a frequency format such as 1/100 and show baseline risk when communicating absolute or relative risk reduction information