Health Numeracy Report for _____

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.

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)

Patients Health Numeracy Level: Medium

Concepts Your Patient May Understand	Concepts Your Patient May Not Understand
• Stage of disease if the direction of severity explained • Interpreting what 50% means • Comparing risks using pictographs (stick figures) • One step simple math problems such as doubling a risk of 10% • Comparing rates with different denominators 1/10 vs. 1/3 • Converting a percentage (2%) to a frequency format (2/100) • A survival curve • Basic principles of study design such as the importance of a control group, sample size, and the study population	• Pictographs (stick figures) with denominators of 1000 • Combining baseline and relative risk information • Decimals or rates with a denominator of 1000 (i.e., 0.05% and 5/1000) • Interpretation of statistical significance

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 respectively of the patients 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