

A Pathway to Equity in Lymphoma Care

How health literacy improves health equity - and why it matters to patient outcomes



Health literacy is a strong predictor of health outcomes.

Low health literacy is associated with poorer health status, increased hospitalisations, and greater unmet needs. Lymphoma Coalition's Global Patient Survey on Lymphoma & CLL research data, shows that health literate systems require health literacy practices in healthcare settings to bridge the gap between complex medical information, patient understanding, and improved patient outcomes.

When Systems Support, Patients Thrive



Individual Health Literacy:

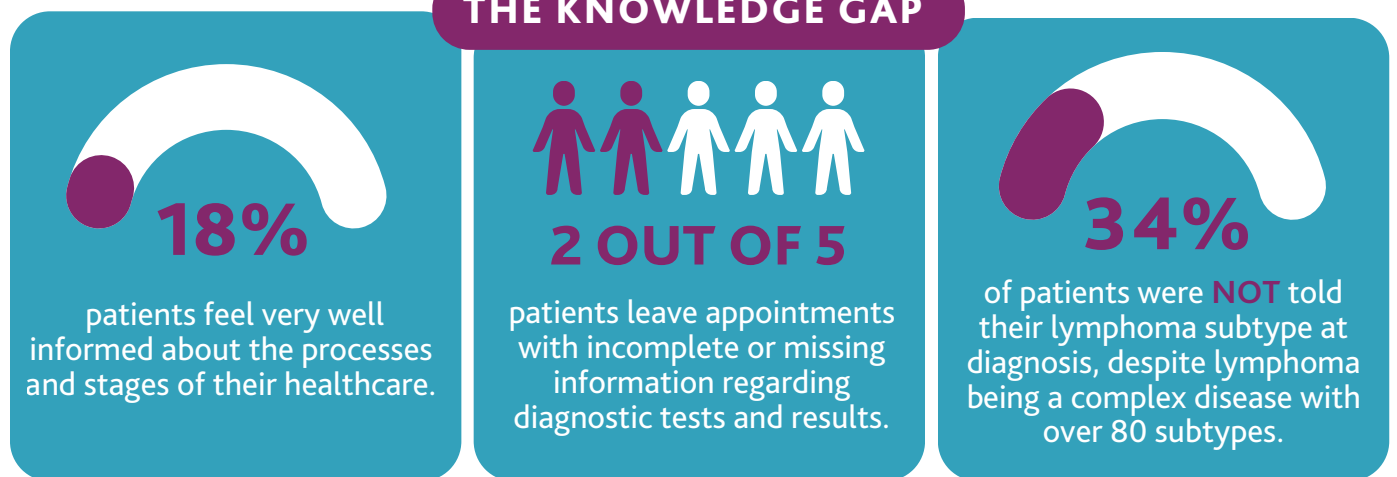
The degree to which individuals can find, understand, and use information to inform health-related decisions.



Organisational Health Literacy:

The degree to which organisations equitably enable individuals to find, understand, and use information and services.

THE KNOWLEDGE GAP



Global Disparities in Understanding

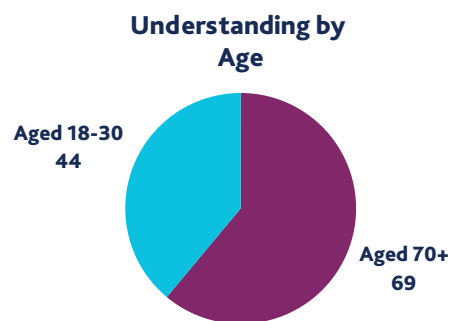
Patient understanding of key terms (e.g., "progressive disease") varies significantly by region, highlighting the need for culturally responsive communication:



- Europe: **64%** understanding
- North America: **57%** understanding
- Asia-Pacific: **49%** understanding

The Age Paradox

Explanation of diagnostic tests and results, and the extent that patients understand, differs by age group.



- Aged 70+: **69%** understood their diagnostic results.
- Aged 18-30: **Only 44%** reported the same level of understanding.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVING HEALTH LITERACY CAN IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY.

Policy actions and health system-level interventions that address health literacy needs are critical to improving patient outcomes.

PILLARS OF ACTION

NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Health literacy policies and strategies should be part of all health systems, with consistent monitoring and evaluation of progress.

PLAIN LANGUAGE

Healthcare information should be concise, jargon-free and easy to understand for patients and care partners, especially those with limited literacy skills.

EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE

Healthcare should ensure that organisational health literacy supports equitable care, including different literacy levels, cultural health beliefs, and preferred languages.

SHARED DECISION-MAKING

Healthcare practices should ensure that doctors explain cancer care plans in a way that is understandable so that patients can be more involved in their care and decision-making.

To improve health equity, we must shift the focus from solely improving individual skills to creating **Health Literate Systems**. Leaders and policymakers must address factors that impact patient experience and contribute to disparities.