Reviewer's report

Title: Which providers can bridge the health literacy gap in lifestyle risk factor modification education: a narrative synthesis

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Reviewer: J. Travis Gossey

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On the whole, the article is though provoking. The authors have taken a more broad view than many of what health literacy is and therefore are able to extrapolate from SNAWP modification interventions their impact on health literacy. Rather than focus on papers that targeted studies of health literacy (and actually measured it using a standardized tool like the REALM or TOFHLA), they focused on interventions that could arguable be construed as addressing the underlying knowledge/skill set needed for a patient to be able to interface appropriately with a health care system. That said, the paper would be stronger if they could synthesize more of the components of health literacy that can/should be focused on to improve interventions. For example, how many of the studies focused on numeracy and increased numeracy through a specific intervention (such as calculating medication times). In other words, if they could also examine the IOM's definition of health literacy and help synthesize their message around the different components of it, that would help reader with a more strict view of health literacy appreciate the author’s conclusions. They have already done the work of data collection, so with a minimal review and addition they can better inform the reader of their findings to guide future study designs. I appreciate how they ended their discussion addressing the study’s short-comings, however it would be nice if they would end by describing what’s next in terms of this studying health literacy interventions. Neither of these are required. There were a few typos, such as an unbalanced parenthesis that caused a bit of confusion on my initial read that should be fixed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.