

Rapid Estimated of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM)

Patient: _____

Examiner: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

List 1	List 2	List 3
fat _____	fatigue _____	allergic _____
flu _____	pelvic _____	menstrual _____
pill _____	jaundice _____	testicle _____
dose _____	infection _____	colitis _____
eye _____	exercise _____	emergency _____
stress _____	behavior _____	medication _____
smear _____	prescription _____	occupation _____
nerves _____	notify _____	sexually _____
germs _____	gallbladder _____	alcoholism _____
meals _____	calories _____	irritation _____
disease _____	depression _____	constipation _____
cancer _____	miscarriage _____	gonorrhea _____
caffeine _____	pregnancy _____	inflammatory _____
attack _____	arthritis _____	diabetes _____
kidney _____	nutrition _____	hepatitis _____
hormones _____	menopause _____	antibiotics _____
herpes _____	appendix _____	diagnosis _____
seizure _____	abnormal _____	potassium _____
bowel _____	syphilis _____	anemia _____
asthma _____	hemorrhoids _____	obesity _____
rectal _____	nausea _____	osteoporosis _____
incest _____	directed _____	impetigo _____

Instructions
 After telling the patient you are trying to determine what material is best for her, say: "I want to hear you read as many words as you can from this list. Begin with the first word on list 1 and read aloud. When you come to a word you cannot read, do the best you can or say blank and go on to the next word"
 If a pt. takes more than 5 seconds, say "blank" and move the patient along. If she begins to miss every word, tell her to just say the words she knows.
 Count as an error any word not attempted or mispronounced. Score by making (+) for each correct word, (-) for each unattempted word, and (*) for each incorrect word.
 Count the total number of correct words and record in the "Score Box". Match the total with its grade equivalent.

SCORE
List 1 _____
List 2 _____
List 3 _____

SOURCE:
Davis, T., Crouch, M., & Long, S. Louisiana State University

GRADE EQUIVALENT	
Raw score	Grade Range
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 – 18	3 rd grade and below- Needs illustrations, videos and tapes.
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 – 44	4 th to 6 th Grade – Needs low literacy material; can't read rx bottles.
<input type="checkbox"/> 45 – 60	7 th to 8 th Grade – Will struggle with most educational materials.
<input type="checkbox"/> 61 – 66	High School – Will be able to read most materials.