

## Workshop Objectives:

Upon completion of this workshop, the participant will be able to:

1. Understand the scope of low literacy in the United States
2. Recognize common signs and symptoms of low literacy
3. Perform an assessment of medical literacy using REALM
4. Identify the reading grade level of printed materials for the need to rewrite
5. Communicate effectively through verbal and written materials with a person with low literacy
6. Develop personal goals for use of this information in practice

This continuing nursing education activity has been submitted for approval to the Missouri Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

If approved, 6.6 contact hours will be provided.

## LOW LITERACY: THE HIDDEN OBSTACLE OF HEALTH PROMOTION

**February 7, 2004  
Community of Christ Temple,  
Independence, Mo**

**Guest Speaker: FRANCES ATKINS,  
PhD, RN, CNS**

8:00-9:00	REGISTRATION
9:00-9:30	Welcome, Overview, and Introduction of Speaker
9:30-10:30	"Scope and Personal, Social, and Intellectual Impact of Low Literacy"
10:30-10:45	BREAK
10:45-11:15	"Signs, Symptoms, and Myths of Low Literacy"
11:15-12:15	"Assessing Materials Using REALM"
12:25-1:35	LUNCH
1:45-2:45	"Reading Difficulty, Rewriting Materials"
2:45-3:15	"Translate to Spoken Communication Skills"
3:15-3:30	BREAK
3:30-4:30	"More Practice, Personal Assessment, and Plan"
4:30-5:00	"Closing Summary and EVALUATION"

## Dr. Frances D. Atkins

Dr. Atkins offers the workshop audience many years of scholarship and practical experience in the field of mental health nursing and health care within the church environment. She comes to this setting as an author and speaker in the field.

The expertise Dr. Atkins brings to the subject of health literacy is the day-to-day application of assessing, teaching, and evaluating the patient's level of literacy and adapting her oral and written communication accordingly. Her mental health practice is located in a rural community with a variety of socio-economic levels.

She also functions in the congregational nurse role of her local congregation and has developed numerous educational materials to assist her church.

Parish nursing has been an interest of Dr. Atkins for many years and she has been involved in promoting this area of ministry in her community and in her denomination.