

Health Literacy Intervention in Speech and Language Therapy for Adults

Individuals with speech, language and hearing disorders are at particular risk for low health literacy. Despite this there are relatively few health literacy studies in the field of communication disorders.

This collaborative project between Dr Verna McKenna, Health Promotion Research Centre and Dr Orla Gilheaney, Speech and Language Therapy (SLT), Trinity College Dublin, consisted of a scoping review of health literacy intervention in speech and language therapy for adults.

The review synthesised studies on health literacy within the context of SLT that have dealt with adult patients. Findings were used to document areas where further action is need for research and practice. Meetings to establish parameters of the scoping review took place in 2021 and the research strategy was developed, and data extraction undertaken during 2022.

The key finding is that despite the needs of people with communication disorders to be able to access clear actionable health information, there is a paucity of health literacy interventions in this area.

A paper is currently under development.