Selected on the basis of their clarity, comprehensiveness, and representativeness within the health communication field of study, the items in this annotated bibliography are intended for use by those wishing to develop health communication educational programs or conduct health communication research. The 42 titles deal with a variety of topics, including the following: (1) doctor-patient communication, (2) interpersonal and intercultural communications training for health service workers, (3) the role of communication specialists in improving the quality of health care, (4) health communication research, (5) communication in health care organizations, (6) the impact of intercultural communication on the health care needs of different cultural groups, (7) communicating with the elderly, (8) teaching norm sensitivity to nurses, (9) teaching interviewing proficiencies to health care professionals, (10) communication in medical therapeutics, (11) the interdisciplinary health care team in health care practice, (12) communication in health care counseling, (13) the relationship between communication and mental health, and (14) interdisciplinary theories of human communication. (RBW)
This bibliography is designed to provide individuals with a general introduction to the study of health communication. The items chosen for inclusion were selected on the basis of clarity, comprehensiveness, and representativeness within the health communication field of study. The entries in this bibliography should prove useful to those wishing to develop health communication educational programs or conduct health communication research.


An excellent review of key research in doctor-patient communication, differentiating between descriptive studies, theoretical studies, single perspective studies, and multiple perspective studies. Adler identifies methodological limitations in these studies and identifies future trends in doctor-patient communication research, stressing the importance of maintaining a balance between problem oriented and theoretical issues in future research.


This enlightening article, written for medical school educators, describes the symbolic aspects of human illness, illustrating the need for sensitive communication between health professionals and their clients. Furthermore, Barnlund identifies specific strategies for improving doctor-patient communication.


This paper presents the special needs health service workers have for training in intercultural and interpersonal communication and describes a course in intercultural communication developed for health science students. Areas for future development of health communication educational programs are suggested.


This overview article examines the unique potential communication specialists have to help improve the quality of health care. Cassata describes several areas for research, education, and consultation that may lead to the development of the health communication discipline.

This overview article defines health communication, describing the role of communication scholarship in behavioral medicine and health education. The author identifies parameters for the study, teaching, research, and application of health communication, describing health communication levels, functions, contexts, and communication methods that are most relevant to the health care delivery system.


This study explored the relationships among social perception processes, person-centered communication strategies, and the mediating factors of empathy and context-relevant beliefs of physicians. It was found that when physicians' goals were to regulate, advise, or solicit information from a patient, those with more sophisticated interpersonal construct systems were most likely to conceive patients' perspectives and use this information in formulating patient-centered communication strategies. The research suggests physician's need for interpersonal communication education to help them better interpret the dispositional and motivational characteristics of patients.


This paper reviews and summarizes much of the literature on patient compliance and develops a new theoretical orientation for compliance focusing on belief, attitude, intention, and behavior. Future research utilizing this perspective is suggested.


This overview article develops the relationships between communication and health, reviewing past research in health communication. Directions for future research in health communication are presented.


This overview article examines the unique aspects of health care organizations and develops an analytic framework through which communication in health care organizations can be studied. Directions for future research in health care organizations are suggested.

In a study designed to assess the communication concerns of health care professionals, the following communication skills were identified as being important to their jobs: relationship building, listening, routine information exchange, motivating, giving and soliciting feedback, and oral reporting. These skills are suggested for inclusion in health communication education programs for health care providers.


This paper examines the impact of intercultural communication on the health care needs of three different cultural groups, Mexican-Americans, the people of Nepal, and the people of Japan, as well as identifying some of the problems these cultures present for health care professionals. A course on intercultural communication for health care professionals is described.


This book is designed for secondary classroom teachers who want to include a segment on communication and aging in their classes. The book goes beyond this goal however, by providing a clear examination of the many communication barriers facing the aged in our society and in health care settings. The authors suggest specific activities and exercises that can be used in classes or training sessions to sensitize individuals to the communication needs of the elderly.


This paper presents a systematic method for teaching nurses how to evaluate older patients in a sympathetic manner and to focus on the patient's norms of behavior rather than those of the hospital. A course outline, including descriptions of course topics and class activities is explicated.


This paper presents descriptions of two health communication courses developed for pharmacists that deal with interpersonal communication. Additionally, the authors discuss the need for such health communication educational programs and their use of an interactionist approach to teaching health care interviewing.

This article explores the role of human communication in health care, focusing on the therapeutic dimensions of interpersonal relationships. The development of relational contracts in health care is examined and suggestions for maintaining effective relationships are offered.


This paper provides a comprehensive review of the literature on the uses, advantages, and disadvantages of interdisciplinary health care teams in health care practice. Gifford suggests that health care teams is a critical area for research and evaluation by health care and communication professionals working together, as well as a fruitful topic for health communication research and education.


This book examines the scope of communication in medicine from the physician's point of view. Harlem presents a wealth of practical advice for physicians wishing to communicate effectively as health care professionals, as well as information about different health communication media and technology.


In this paper Hawkins describes the key components of a college course on communication and aging, identifying appropriate assignments, strategies, and materials for enhancing young people's communication with the aged. This course material is particularly relevant to health care providers since the aged are disproportionately high utilizers of health care services and are in need of sensitive health communication.


In this article the relationships between health care and communication are explored, stressing the importance of input from communication specialists for improving the health care delivery system. Strategies for health communication research, education, and consultation are presented.


In a classic study of doctor-patient communication in the pediatric clinic of a large urban hospital the researchers found frequent evidence of mutual dissatisfaction by both doctors and their patients with health communication. The authors examine the reasons for dissatisfaction with communication in health care and offer suggestions for improving communication between doctors and their patients.

This paper argues that since the elderly are a significant population of health care consumers health care providers should be trained to deliver health care services to them as effectively and humanely as possible. Specific health communication needs of the elderly and ten primary topics for health communication education for professionals dealing with aged health care consumers are presented.


This article describes health communication as an emerging area for communication education, stressing the potential benefits of health communication education for the health care system, health professional education, and the communication discipline. Topics for health communication education are examined.


This paper describes an approach to structuring and teaching health communication to health care practitioners. A general course outline is described and instructional objectives are listed.


This paper argues the importance of communication training for practicing health care providers. It is suggested that communication specialists apply speech communication knowledge to the training of health care professionals. Two topic areas of health communication training are examined: skills training and process training. Skills training includes verbal/nonverbal skills, listening skills, perceptual skills, and presentational skills. Process training includes patient interviewing, health education, relationship development, team building, therapeutic communication, and health care ethics.


This book presents a comprehensive examination of health communication, exploring the communicative demands of health care practice. Primary topics include presentational and mediated communication in health care; interpersonal and therapeutic communication in health care; group communication and health care teams; organizational communication in health care, and culture and ethics in health care. Relevant health communication readings are appended to each chapter and an extensive bibliography of health communication literature broken down by content themes is presented.

This report of an interdisciplinary health communication educational program designed by faculty from Speech Communication and Nursing programs describes the instructional methods used in teaching nursing students about effective interpersonal communication in health care.


In this article the developing interest in health communication research and education is explored, past research is summarized, and the functions of health communication activities are examined. Future curricular developments in health communication are encouraged.


This book examines the role of communication in health care settings. It is written from the dual perspectives of nursing and communication, and presents a good application of communication theory to health care practice.


This edited book presents an overview of the field of Health Communication. Summaries and interpretations of two ICA conference presentations concerning Doctor-Patient relations are presented, and seven competitive conference papers concerning selected health communication topics are included.


This text examines the role of human communication in health care counseling. The communication variables surrounding counseling are described, and strategies for evaluating the effectiveness of counseling activities are presented. Methods for teaching communication in health care are presented in the book's appendix, along with specific course goals, observational guides, strategies for use of media, feedback methods, and counseling design.


This article highlights five key issues to be considered in defining therapeutic communication. These issues include: holistic conception of health; transactive conception of communication; breadth to encompass instrumental and consumatory therapy; focus on the central concerns of scholars in the field; and linking the definition to related concepts.
This classic book presents a theory relating communication behavior and psychological pathology, identifying mentally pathological behavior as disturbed communication. Ruesch further identifies specific psychopathological patterns of communication, and presents different approaches for clinically observing disturbed (pathological) communication.

In this book Ruesch further develops the theory relating human communication and psychopathology. Ruesch identifies human communication not only as the outlet for mental dysfunctions, but also as a means for treating disturbed communication. He describes the use of therapeutic communication in mental healing.

This seminal article describes the importance of human communication in psychiatric therapy, and explains the use of communication in implementing therapeutic goals.

In this classic theoretical treatise, Ruesch and Bateson develop an interdisciplinary theory of human communication, relating communication to the field of mental health. Mental health and illness are tied to the ways individuals communicate.

In this book Sharf, in consultation with Joseph A. Flaherty, M.D., provide a functional guide to communicating effectively in medical practice. The book suggests ways to establish rapport with patients, communicate with severely ill and dying, interview children and family members, communicate interprofessionally, and deliver effective lectures and presentations.

This paper describes a training program developed for health professionals to improve their abilities to communicate empathetically. Evaluation of the training program supported the following outcomes of the program: an increase in participants' awareness of the importance of empathy in health care, increased knowledge of the empathy process, and increased ability to demonstrate empathic behavioral skills.

This article presents an excellent review of the literature in health communication, identifying key research in the areas of doctor-patient communication, nurse-patient communication, communication with the elderly and in health organizations, health information acquisition and health campaigns, and communication concerns of social workers and family counselors.


This paper reviews the literature on health care teams as well as provides an historical overview and rationale for using teams in health care. Leadership, size, composition of teams, and communication patterns in health care teams are analyzed.


This paper summarizes the perspectives and orientations used to study health communication, reviews research findings, and presents an instructional approach for communication in the helping professions.


In this article, Walker identifies human communication as an important variable to study in health care. He examines the ways in which human communication affects the delivery of health care, as well as indicating several directions for improving communication in the delivery of health care.


This research paper reports an examination of communication patterns in ten physician-patient interviews that lead to patient satisfaction. Communication variables such as time spent communicating, topic control, and information giving were related to patient satisfaction.