

BACKGROUND

- The American Cancer Society expects there to be approximately 2.1 million new cancer cases and more than 626,000 deaths from cancer in 2026.
- Cancer mortality rates have steadily declined over the last 30 years
- 5-year survival rates continue to climb over the same time frame, reaching 70%.
- These numbers can be attributed in part to discoveries made through clinical trials. It is expected that the Rutgers Cancer Institute will enroll more than 700 patients in 2026.

Several gaps have been identified at Rutgers Cancer Institute:

- A health literacy (HL) assessment is not being utilized in the ambulatory oncology setting
- A knowledge deficit was found in the clinical trials staff regarding HL assessment and awareness of the impact on the patient's clinical trial journey.
- Patients with lower HL may experience barriers to clinical trial enrollment, engagement, and retention

Navigating clinical trials can be complex for many, and even more so for those with limited HL. Patients are influenced by how information is organized, presented, and communicated by nurses and other healthcare professionals. Information customized to the HL needs of the patient can boost patient outcomes and safety.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Ascertain the overall HL of cancer patients within our catchment area
- Increase HL awareness among the research nurse clinicians (RNCs) across the organization
- Use the HL score to customize education from the informed consent process throughout the life cycle of the clinical trial.

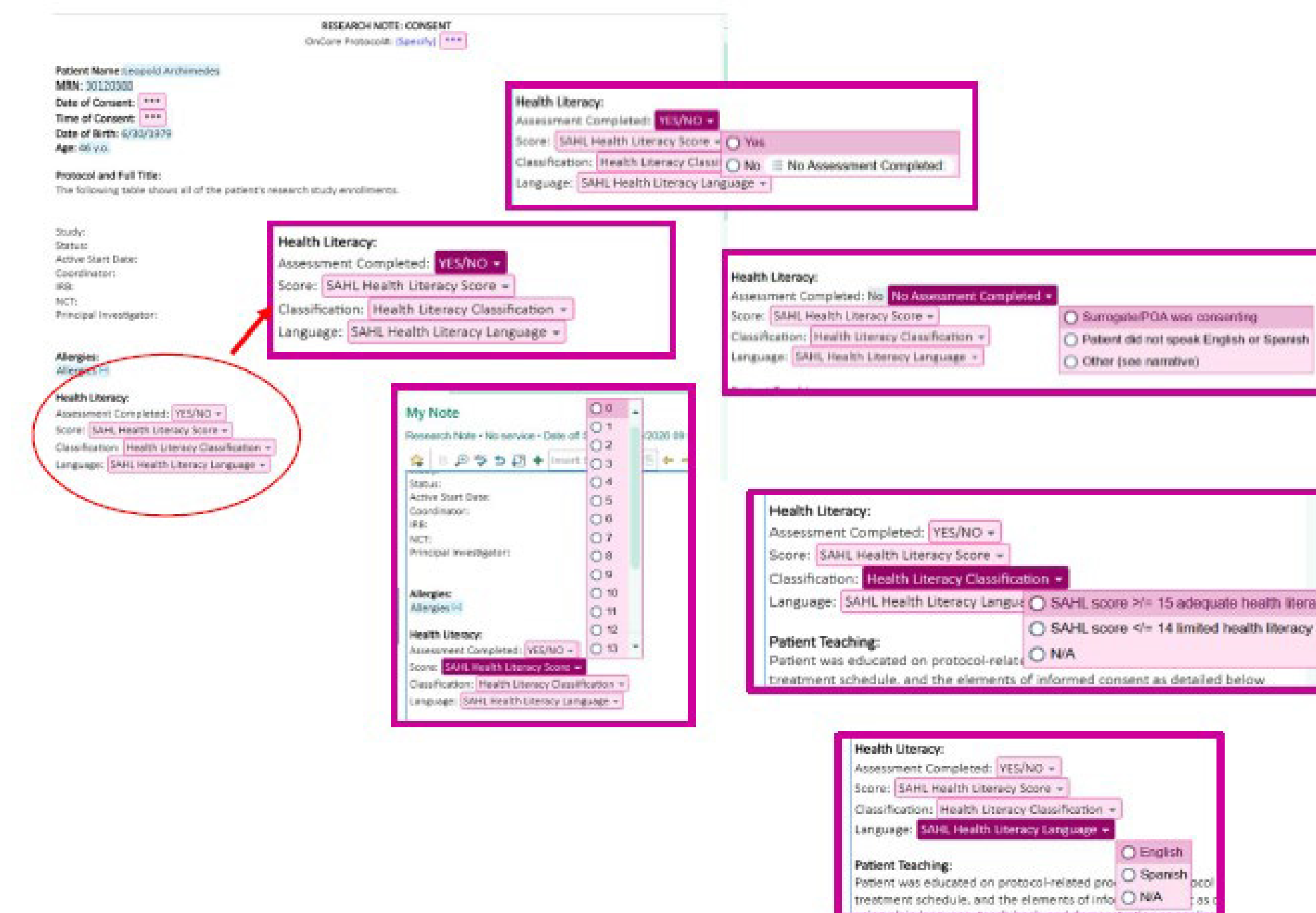
METHODS



Survey Results



EMR Informed Consent Note Template Modification



Health Literacy Universal Precautions

Patient Teaching:
Patient was educated on protocol-related procedures, protocol treatments, treatment schedule, and the elements of informed consent as detailed below using plain language, teach-back, and demonstration as applicable.

OUTCOME

The project aims to increase RN awareness of HL, and by using patient HL scores to customize patient education, improve protocol adherence, and potentially increase clinical trial accrual through enhanced patient understanding and engagement, may be achieved

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Future directions include collaborating with Rutgers Community Outreach and Engagement to identify and develop tools for the patient population with low HL literacy, further customizing patient teaching information to optimize patient care.

