

## Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers

A free online Career Pathway literacy curriculum based on CNA and general healthcare content.



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## Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers



- ❖ 175 selections for intermediate-level readers between 5.5 and 8.5 grade levels
- ❖ Selections focused on healthcare-related content written by licensed language arts/ESL teachers, most with pre-CNA teaching and course development experience
- ❖ Focus on academic and content vocabulary
- ❖ Readability is measured by ATOS for College & Career Readiness alignment
- ❖ All selections recorded in 3 speeds for fluency development

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## Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers Sample Titles



- ❖ Mr. Howe's Pneumonia
- ❖ Recognizing Signs of Elder Abuse
- ❖ Resident Rights in Nursing Homes
- ❖ Samantha Learns about HIPAA
- ❖ What is Dementia?
- ❖ The Five Principles of Care
- ❖ Breaking the Chain of Infection
- ❖ Developing Cultural Competence
- ❖ Taking Vital Signs
- ❖ Performance Evaluation
- ❖ Healthcare Settings
- ❖ Planning for a Successful Job Search

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## Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers Sample Vocabulary

### Content Vocabulary

airway obstruction  
body mechanics  
care plan  
Fowler's position  
hygiene  
intake  
pathogens  
respiration  
scope of practice

### High-Utility Academic Vocabulary

adequate  
condition  
determine  
evaluate  
factor  
indicate  
maintain  
minimize  
transition

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## Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers

Pre-reading questions.

Pre-reading definitions of healthcare and high utility vocabulary.

**Resident Rights in Nursing Homes**

Pre-reading

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions:

- What kind of human rights do people have in the United States?
- What kind of rights do you have when you go to the doctor?
- What kind of rights do residents that live in a nursing home have?

Definitions:

- orientation—training before starting a new job
- orientation—becomes aware of surroundings, not lost
- discharge—free or free from with information about a topic
- compliance—agreement that a situation is fair or appropriate
- welfare—health and happiness of a person

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## Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers

3 speeds of recorded text for learners to listen to for fluency development

Selection focused on healthcare-related content for engagement and motivation

5.5 reading grade level

**Resident Rights in Nursing Homes**

0 Today is Samira's first day of training at her new job. She is  
13 going to work as a nursing assistant at First Care Nursing  
24 Homes. To learn about her job, Samira will have one week of  
36 orientation. Samira will train with the lead nurse assistant,  
48 Amir. Amir has worked at the nursing home for 10 years.  
56

On the first day of training, Amir gives Samira a tour of the  
68 nursing home. Amir starts his morning shift, he tells  
79 Samira, "Just watch what I do with residents today. Then, I'll  
89 answer all your questions."

94 Samira has a lot of questions. For example, Samira observed  
104 that Amir didn't always do all the activities on the resident's  
112 care plans. Each resident has a care plan, which includes the  
128 needs that every healthcare worker must do with the resident.  
136

"If a resident doesn't want to get dressed or take medicine,  
147 that's a resident's choice," says Amir. "I cannot make residents  
157 do something they don't want to do. They have the right to  
169 make decisions. But I have to tell the nurse if I don't do  
182 something written on a resident's care plan."

189 Amir gives Samira the Residents' Rights booklet. All  
197 residents receive the booklet. It gives residents information  
205 about their rights such as the right to make independent  
213 choices, the right to have visitors, and the right to make  
220 suggestions or to complain about care.  
228

Samira also learns that the Minnesota Department of Human  
241 Services (DHS) looks into complaints about the health, safety,  
249 welfare, and rights of residents who live in nursing homes. The  
257 DHS collects data to find the truth and fix complaints in  
271 nursing homes.

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**Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers**

**Text dependent questions for understanding.**

**Resident Rights in Nursing Homes**

Understanding      *10 min.*

1. Why does Arri sometimes not do activities on a resident's care plan?
2. What does Arri need to do if he doesn't complete an activity on a resident's care plan?
3. Write three examples of residents' rights included in the Residents' Rights brochure.
4. What is the responsibility of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) in protecting nursing home residents?

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**Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers**

**2 writing options:**

- ❖ 1 text dependent
- ❖ 1 more open-ended

**Writing**

**Option One:** Describe how residents' rights are protected in nursing homes using examples from the reading.

**Option Two:** Do you think it's important for residents to have rights in nursing homes? Why or why not?

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**Possible Ways to Use Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers**

- ❖ As a supplement to a pre-CNA class, CNA class or other general healthcare class
- ❖ As a way to motivate learners interested in healthcare careers to build fluency, vocabulary and comprehension skills
- ❖ As fluency practice with a teacher, volunteer or tutor
- ❖ As reading/writing practice with teacher feedback on comprehension and writing questions
- ❖ As online independent fluency and vocabulary-building practice




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**Reading Skills for Healthcare Workers  
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