

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Corner

This Month's Happenings:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

HSO is proud to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure. [Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#) was founded in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries, to promote mammograms as the most effective tool to fight breast cancer. With the help of former First Lady and breast cancer survivor, Betty Ford, the initiative gained strength and national awareness, with the pink ribbon introduced as part of the campaign in 1992.

At HSO, please help us show our support and raise awareness by **wearing pink every Friday in October**. See below for a throwback to last year's Breast Cancer Awareness Month celebrated by Batavia Ob/Gyn.



October is Health Literacy Month

[Health Literacy Month](#), founded in 1999, draws attention to the importance of making health information easy to understand and the health care system easier to navigate. As health professionals and as a trusted healthcare organization, we all have a responsibility to address our patient's ability to both **understand and use** health information. Low health literacy results in medication errors, low rates of treatment compliance, reduced use of preventative services, unnecessary ER visits, and higher mortality.

To increase health literacy and ultimately improve health outcomes, collaboration is needed at the individual and organization level. HSO is actively working to address health literacy by making print, oral, and electronic health information easier to understand; providing education to improve literacy skills

and empower individuals; and working to make the delivery of health care more patient-centered. For more information on how to be a Health Literacy Hero, check out these [fact sheets](#) to learn more.

BE A HEALTH LITERACY HERO



Nine out of 10 adults struggle to understand and use health information when it is:



Unfamiliar



Complex



Jargon-filled

Limited health literacy costs the health care system money and results in higher-than-necessary morbidity and mortality.



You can improve health literacy by:



Using plain language



Simplifying numbers



Accounting for culture

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016

DEI Conversations & Education:

[HealthStream Trainings due 11/1](#)

Have you completed HealthStream DEI trainings: Cultural Competence & Diversity in the Workplace? If not, you still have time! All trainings are due November 1.