

Date

The Hospital Administrator of your choice
Happy Hospital
123 Library Way
Any Town, IL 54321

Dear Hospital Administrator:

Health care is on the minds of all Americans right now. At the same time, the multiple demands on hospitals and health care providers have never been greater. Safe, quality care is the expectation and the right of every patient, and it takes an entire team of professionals to meet this expectation.

October is National Medical Librarians Month. During this month, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region (NN/LM, GMR) would like to remind you of an invaluable member of the healthcare team —**your hospital librarian**.

The Joint Commission and the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) both require hospitals to document evidence that patients understand the health information provided to them. The hospital librarian is a natural partner in this process. As health information providers, librarians are skilled at locating culturally-sensitive, high-quality health information written for patients at all levels of health literacy. Across the country, hospital librarians serve on patient safety and patient education committees and many teach health information literacy classes for clinical professionals, patients and the community.

As a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, your hospital librarian has access to professional development opportunities, training materials, and funding sources to assist patient caregivers in their efforts to communicate effectively with patients and their families, thereby assuring that every patient is an informed patient.

In celebration of National Medical Librarians Month, the GMR encourages you to make full use of one of your vital resources. When was the last time you consulted your hospital librarian?

Kathryn H. Carpenter
Director, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region