MEI Educational Materials Written at 6th Grade Reading Level, an Exception to New Study Findings

Madison, WI – A new study published in the June issue of the American Journal of Kidney Disease shows that 90% of chronic kidney disease (CKD) educational material is written above the recommended health literacy level. This makes the CKD educational materials produced by the non-profit Medical Education Institute (MEI) an exception to these findings.

MEI writes all of its patient educational materials to be at the 6th grade reading level or lower. On average, adult patients have an 8th grade health literacy level, and this can be a particular problem for elderly, minority, and disadvantaged people who are more likely to have CKD. MEI’s patient educational resources and materials include:

- Kidney School
- LifeOptions.org
- Home Dialysis Central
- Brand New – CKD Education Booklets
- My Life, My Dialysis Choice
- Help, I Need Dialysis!

“MEI makes appropriate literacy levels a priority for all of our educational material,” said Dori Schatell, MS, MEI Executive Director. “The two most critical factors when designing patient education are comprehension and motivation. If either of these are lacking, the material is not serving its purpose of giving patients hope.”

About MEI: Founded in 1993, MEI is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with chronic diseases learn to manage and improve their health. MEI fulfills its mission by conducting research, developing evidence-based educational materials for consumers and health professionals, and advocating for patient-centered policies. MEI is funded through corporate sponsorships, fee-for-service contracts, product sales, and donations. Tax-deductible contributions can be made through MEI’s website, www.meiresearch.org.

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