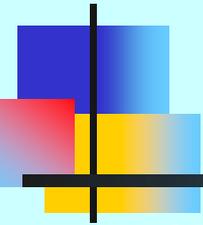


Stanzaic Versification:
A Poetry-based Method for Simplifying
Health-related Prose (Surveys)
for Aging Populations



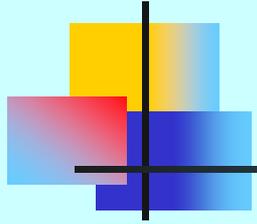
José Luis Calderón, MD

RCMAR-CHIME Fellow

Center for Maximizing Outcomes & Research on Effectiveness (C-MORE)

Division of General Internal Medicine & Health Services Research

UCLA

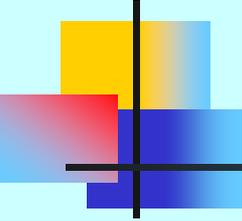


Alas, I bear the task to ask
for three courageous volunteers.

Who'd step to fight with righteous hearts,
who'd n'er to dare reveal their fears!

From, *'The Meek and the Mighty'*

-CJ Luis



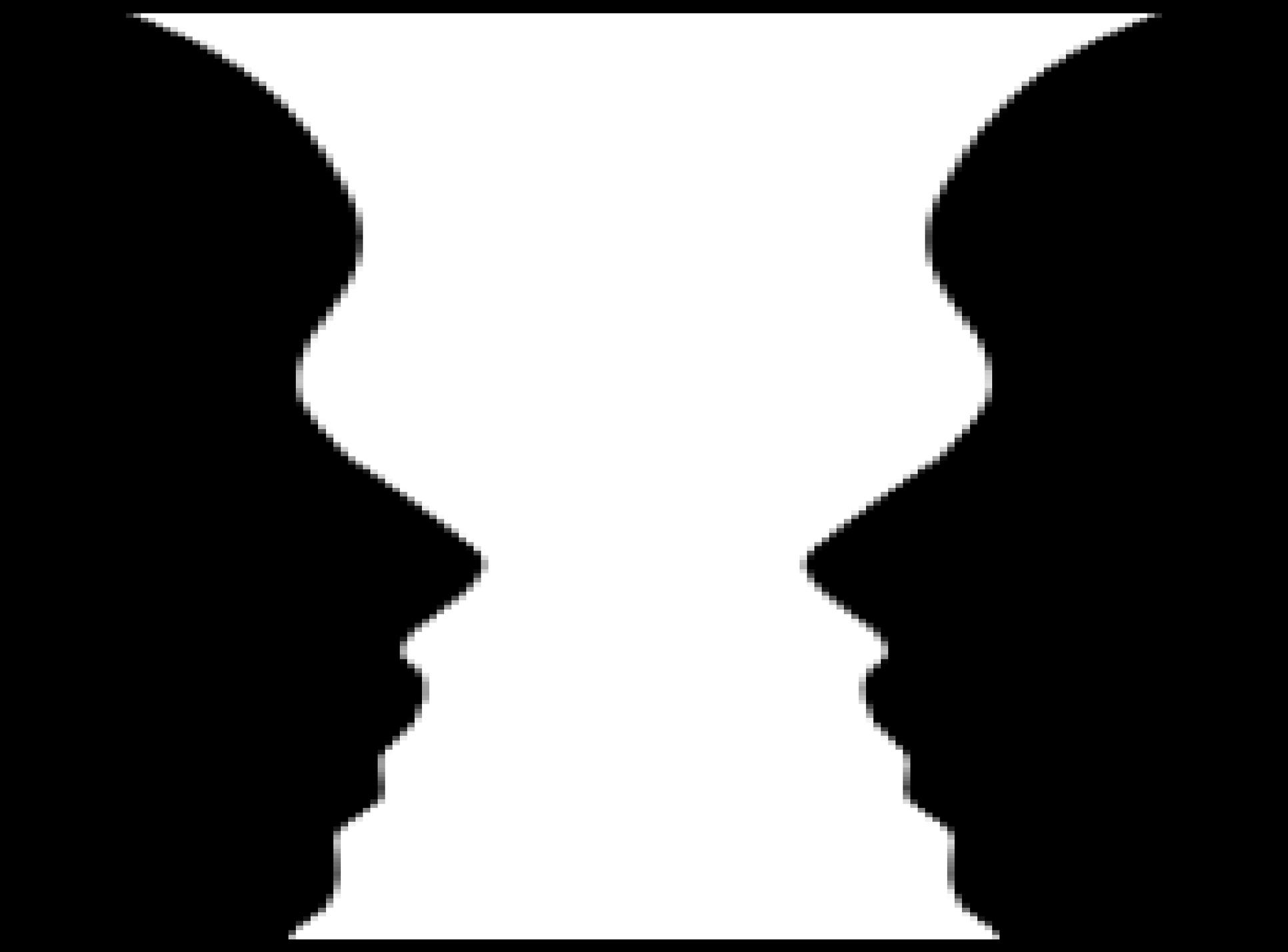
Prose to Poetry Reading Exercise

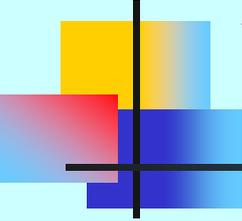
'The Undeclared'

From *Men without Women*

by Ernest Hemingway

Copyright 1927 by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York

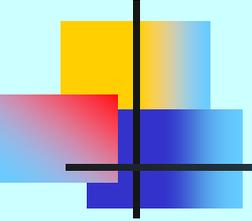




Report of the Task Force on Black & Minority Health Heckler Report 1983

‘Develop new health information and educational materials, suitable for specific minority groups, where none already exist.’

‘Test improved or new materials before general distribution’ *to determine if the materials are both culturally acceptable and useful to the target audience.*



The Heckler Report

‘Another problem relates to data collected from **national surveys**’.

‘**National surveys may include too few minority individuals** to permit reliable analyses of health data for a particular group.’

Health Communication Discrepancy

Cognitive Demand/Cognitive Capacity

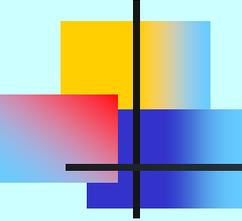
Cognitive Demand High
Health-related Documents

Cognitive Capacity Diminished
Aging Minorities

- ✚ Visual display
- ✚ Cognitive design
- ✚ Access Cost
- ✚ Readability

- ✚ Aging
- ✚ Chronic disease
- ✚ Co-Morbidity
- ✚ Drugs/ADE*

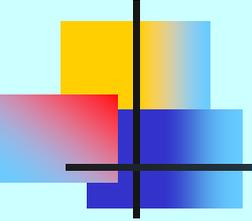
ADE- Adverse Drug Events



Readability Redefined

Readability is the sum total of all interactions between all factors that affect the level of success a given category of persons will have with any given segment of printed material; whether text or image presented electronically or by paper.

UCLA Center for Maximizing Outcomes & Research on Effectiveness C-MORE



Readability

Qualitative Attributes

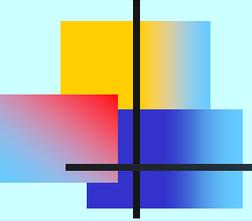
Wording: Word choices, use of commonly spoken words

Syntax: Arrangement of words, use of grammar

Quantitative: Attributes

Formulas: Estimates of reading difficulty or reading ease

Number of syllables per word, words per sentence



FONBAYS BOOTS Method

Improving the Readability of Prose

An acronym for words that link clauses within
compound and complex sentences.

For Or Nor Bt And Yet So

FONBAYS (common)

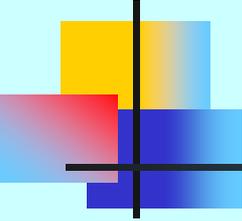
By Often On To Since

BOOTS (less common)

Sometimes

Punctuation:

Commas, colons, semi-colons
(mostly in literary works of prose)



Anticipated Benefits to Society

Identify Connector Points & Unnecessary Wording

The researchers believe that the information collected will contribute to documenting the first aid preparedness of inner city school employees, **and to** identify their learning needs **and** attitudes toward acquiring **and** providing first aid skills. **Furthermore,** this information will serve as a basis **for** developing a curriculum **for** providing first aid skills **to** school employees.

FONBAYS BOOTS Example

Readability Simplification-CAHPS PCMH Item

In the last 12 months, when you phoned this provider's office **after** regular office hours, how often did you get an answer to your medical question as soon as you needed?

14/53

In the last 12 months

When you phoned this provider's office **after** regular office hours, *how often* did you get an answer to your *medical* question *as soon as* you needed?

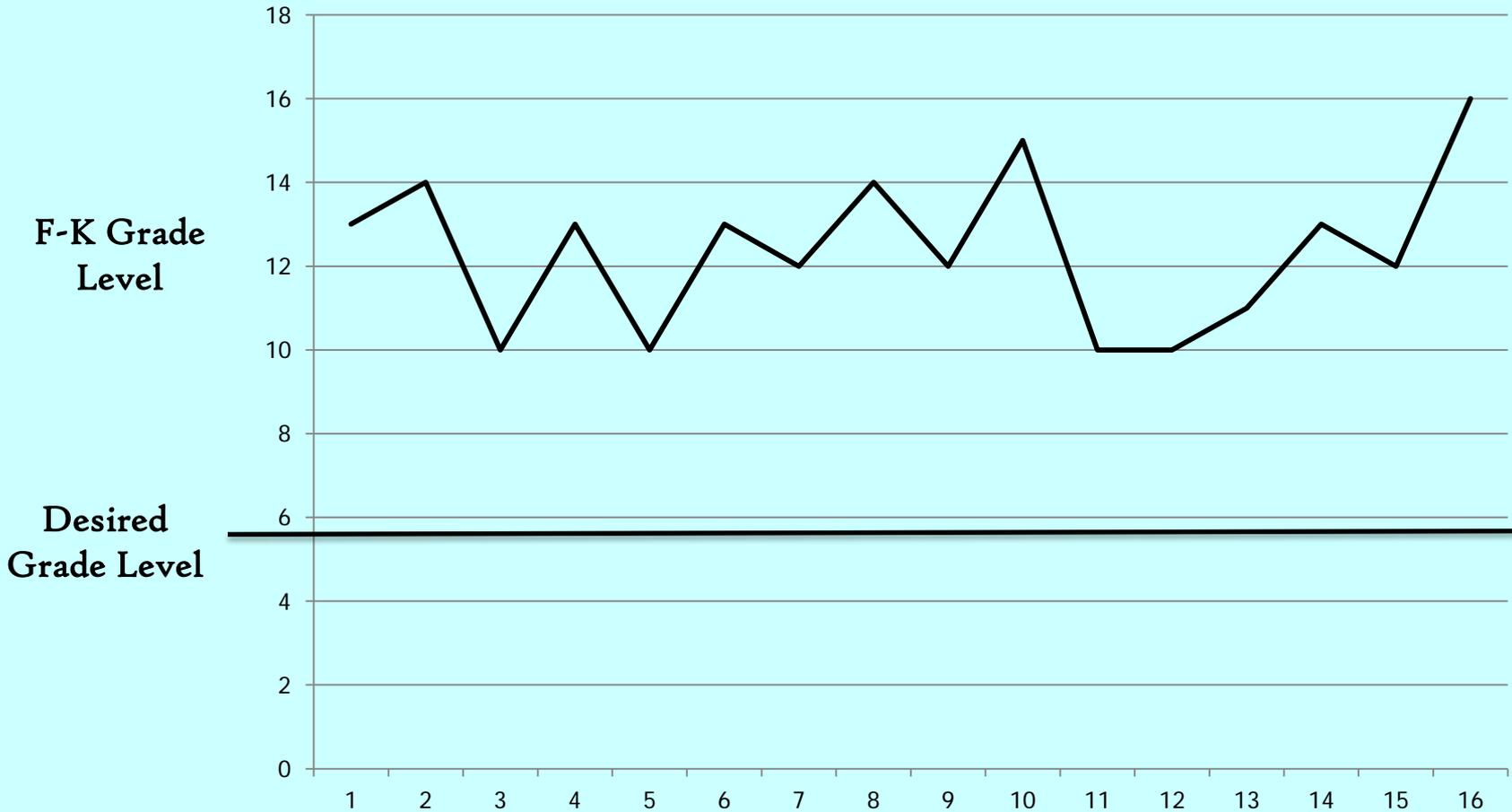
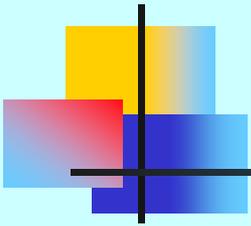
12/54

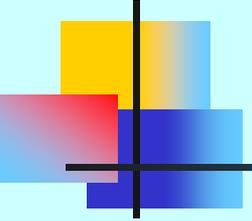
In the last 12 months

When you called this doctor's office **after** regular hours did you get answers to your questions when you needed?

9/67

Grade Level & Variation of Reading Difficulty





Prose

+ Written using sentences

+ Subject and predicate:

Predicate: i.e. verb, object

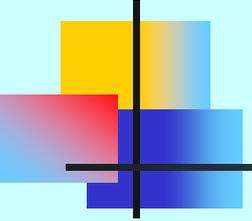
+ Independent clauses:

Stands on their own

+ Use end punctuation:

Period, exclamation

+ Constitute paragraphs



Poetry

+ Written using lines

+ Metrical patterns:

Classical poetry

+ Lines may be independent clause

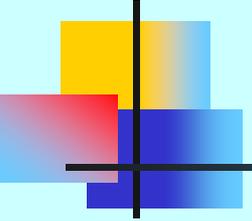
+ May be dependent clauses:

Do not stand on their own

+ May **not use** end punctuation:

Enjambment

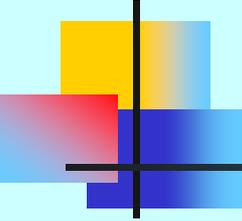
+ Together constitute Stanzas



Enjambment

In poetry, **enjambment** or enjambement
(/ɛn'dʒæmb-mənt/; from the French enjambement)

- + Incomplete syntax at the end of a line
- + Meaning runs over from one **poetic** line to the next
- + Without terminal punctuation
- + Lines without **enjambment** are end-stopped.



Tools of Classical Poetry

Meter & Rhyme

Alas, I bear the task to ask

Enjambment

for three courageous volunteers.

Line

Who'd step to fight with righteous hearts,

Pauses

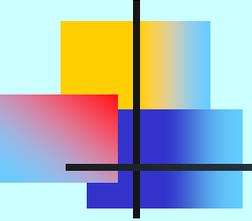
who'd n'er to dare reveal their fears!

End stops

-CJ Luis

'The Meek and the Mighty'

Stanza



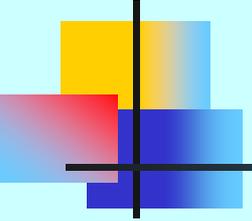
Free Verse Poetry

Cannot be describe in terms of set meter or rhyme patterns

And thought sadly of lonely moments
morning's gray shrouding as she leaned.

Light poles, traffic posts, passerby holding,
narcotic high nodding on dipping knees.

From '*Slowly Lowly*', CJ Luís

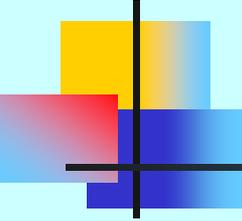


Survey Stanzaic Versification Model

Simplification of Survey Sentences

The Premise

- + Renders a sentence into two or more shorter lines
- + Shorter lines are easier to read
- + Easier to read lines diminished access cost
- + May convey one idea at a time
- + promote survey comprehension
- + Comprehension promotes engagement and completion



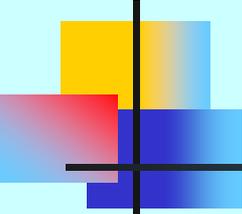
Stanzaic Versification

The Hypothesis

- ✦ Versified survey sentences will be perceived as easier to read
- ✦ Versified survey sentences are easier to read

Consider the Wind Chill Factor:

- ✦ Actual vs. Perceived temperature (feels colder)
- ✦ Actual readability Vs. Perceived readability (reads easier)



FONBAYS BOOTS Example

Readability Quantitative & Qualitative Attributes

In the last 12 months, when you phoned this provider's office **after** regular office hours, how often did you get an answer to your medical question as soon as you needed?

14/53

In the last 12 months

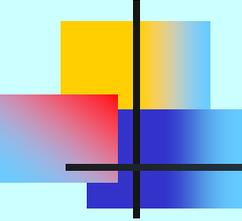
When you phoned this provider's office **after** regular office hours, *how often* did you get an answer to your *medical* question *as soon as* you needed?

12/54

In the last 12 months

When you called this doctor's office after regular hours did you get answers to your questions when you needed?

9/67



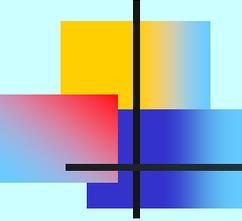
Survey Sentence Versification

In the last 12 months

When you called this doctor's office after regular hours did you get answers to your questions when you needed? **9/67**

In the last 6 months:

When you called this doctor's office
after regular hours,
did you get answers to your questions
when you needed?



Before & After

Stanzaic Versification of CAHPS Item

In the last 6 months:

In the last 12 months, when you phoned this provider's office **after** regular office hours, how often did you get an answer to your medical question as soon as you needed?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

14/53

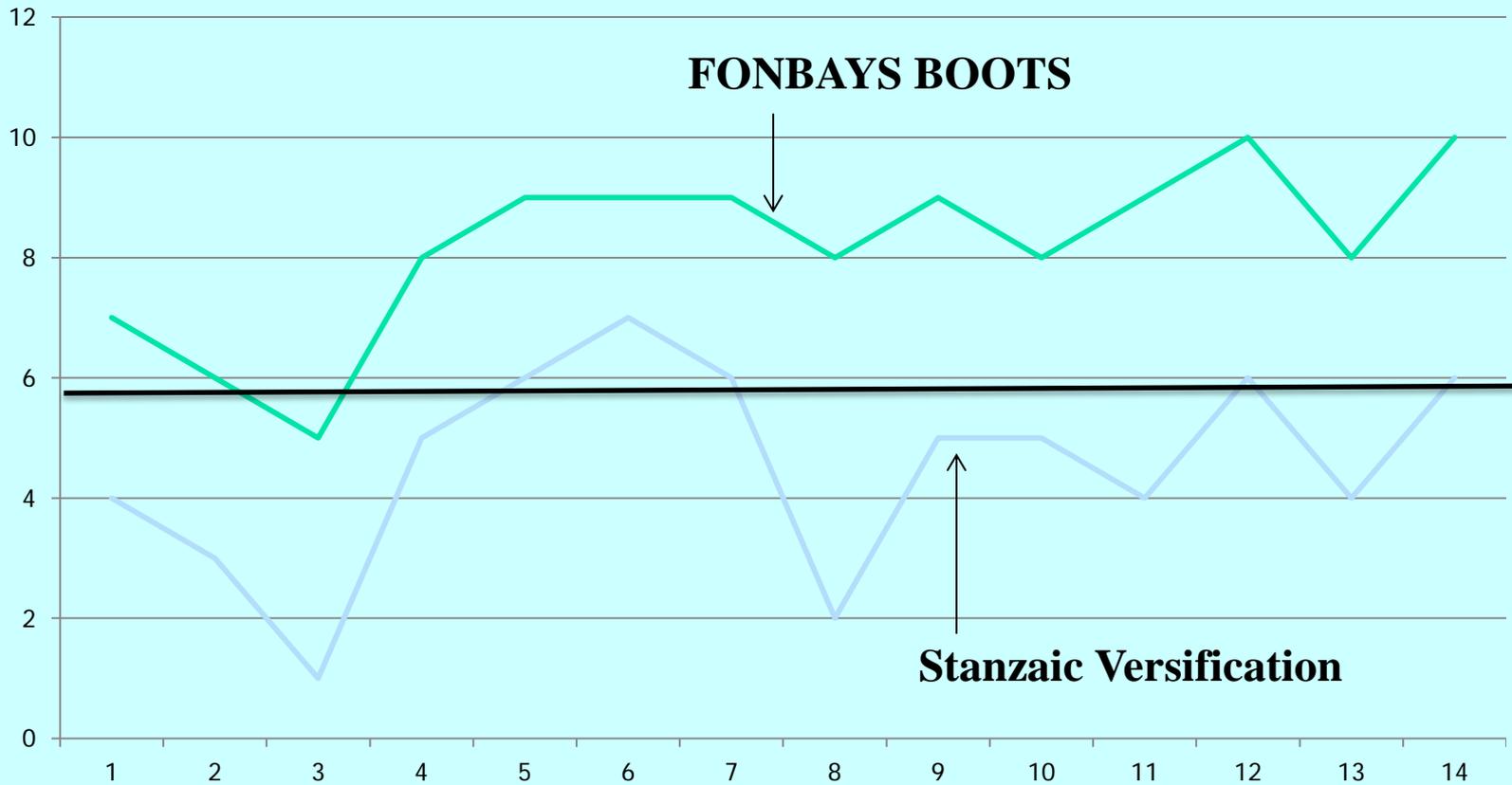
When you called this doctor's office **after** regular hours, did you get answers to your questions when you needed?

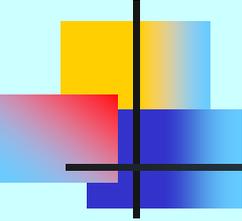
- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

3/82

CAHPS-E

PCMH Item Set Grade Level Reading Difficulty





Quantitative Readability Estimates

The Undeclared'
From *Men without Women* by Ernest Hemingway

	<u>Flesh-Kincaid Grade</u>	<u>Reading Ease Rating</u>
1 st Version	24	Very Difficult
2 nd Version	6	Standard
3 rd Version (Actual)	6	Standard
3 rd Version (Perceived)	3	Easy

