Title: Understanding the Concept of eHealth Literacy – A Scoping Review

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Background: The expansion of eHealth technologies has transformed how individuals access and use health information. While these technologies hold potential to improve health outcomes, their effectiveness depends partly on users' ability to identify credible information and engage appropriately with eHealth tools. This ability, known as eHealth literacy, is therefore a critical determinant of eHealth effectiveness. However, variation in how eHealth literacy is defined and measured limits conceptual clarity and the development and evaluation of eHealth interventions.

Objectives: This study mapped eHealth literacy definitions and measurement tools.

Methods: We conducted a scoping review of literature over the past two decades, screening 11,621 records across six databases (PubMed, Embase, PsycINFO, MEDLINE, Engineering Village, and Cochrane). 113 peer-reviewed articles were included, and definitions were analysed thematically.

Result: Five themes emerged: Knowledge; Skills (Cognitive, Technical, Critical, Social, Applied); Perceived Competence; Context (Personal and Systems); and Purpose. Early definitions and tools were grounded in frameworks that fail to capture the complexity of today's technologies or the behavioural and structural barriers users face. Recent research integrated self-efficacy, motivation, privacy, and trust, while highlighting the influence of contextual and technological environments on digital behaviours and decision-making. Nonetheless, gaps remain in existing tools' ability to measure users' actual competencies.

Conclusion: This review provides a foundation for standardising eHealth literacy in the evolving technological realities, supporting improved measurement and more sustainable eHealth systems.

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