



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

National Center for Interpretation

Self-Study for Aspiring Medical Interpreters

If you work as a medical interpreter, or you plan to enter the field of medical interpretation, the best training available in the country is the Agnese Haury Medical Interpreter Training Institute (the MITI). The 1-week MITI is held every summer in Tucson, Arizona. Read more about the MITI here: <http://nci.arizona.edu/miti>.

If you're not able to attend the MITI, there is quite a lot you can do on your own to build your skills as a medical interpreter. Below are some resources:

Medical Interpretools©

The Medical Interpretools© is a self-study course designed to help the medical interpreter build his/her skills on their own. The Medical Interpretools© draw on the experience of working interpreters and use authentic, real-world scenarios to provide self-study materials that help to prepare interpreters for certification exams and professional success.

The materials present five doctor-patient interactions for practice in consecutive interpretation. Each interaction focuses on different health issues prevalent in the United States:

- Asthma
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Heart Attack Predisposition
- Colon Cancer and Colonoscopy
- Blood Pressure and Stroke

Each interaction consists of a source sound file and a key sound file. The source file is used for practice, while the key file contains an interpreted rendition by federally certified court interpreters. Spoken and printed glossaries are also included.

Also presented is a brief medical overview (in print and recorded) for each of the five conditions, both in English and Spanish. This contextualizes the information, giving the interpreter a greater grasp of specialized terminology than can be gained from glossary and provides for practice in the simultaneous mode. To purchase Medical Interpretools© please click here: http://nci.arizona.edu/med_int

Medical Essentials

The Medical Essentials self-study course is a perfect follow-up to the Medical Interpretools©. These exercises cover a wide range of medical conditions, carefully chosen to illustrate the range of topics an English<>Spanish interpreter is likely to encounter in a professional environment and are prevalent in the Latino community. Each exercise is based on authentic medical documents and transcripts.

Together, these materials make a useful and complete practice package for self-study in the consecutive, sight, and simultaneous modes of medical interpretation.

The Medical Essentials volume includes the sound files for all exercises, printed material containing complete scripts for all consecutive and simultaneous exercises, as well as documents for all sight translations. Glossaries specific to each exercise are also provided.

The Medical Interpreter Competency Examination (MICE)

As interpreter associations began discussion on a national set of standards, NCI proactively developed, piloted, and implemented the [Medical Interpreter Competency Examination](#) (MICE). The MICE provides a comprehensive view into a medical interpreter's proficiency by assessing his or her skills and knowledge in ethics/protocol, medical terminology, sight translation, and consecutive interpretation. The MICE has been recognized as the most comprehensive medical interpreter proficiency currently available.

Certifications for Medical Interpreters

There are currently two different national certifications available for Medical Interpreters. They are described below.

The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters

The mission of the National Board is to foster improved healthcare outcomes, patient safety and patient/provider communication, by elevating the standards for and quality of medical interpreting through a nationally recognized and validated certification for medical interpreters.

The CMI certification program is governed by the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (National Board), an independent division of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA). Read more here: <http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/>.

Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters

The primary goal of the CCHI is to provide a process that will enhance the profession of healthcare interpreting and in turn benefit the communities that are in need of healthcare interpreters. CCHI has brought together the necessary stakeholders through a non-profit organization whose main mission is to develop and administer a national, valid, credible, vendor-neutral certification program for healthcare interpreters. CCHI has researched and built its program based on data from the field that

reflects the knowledge, skills, performance and expectations for healthcare interpreting. Read more here: <http://www.healthcareinterpretercertification.org/>.

Other Professional Organizations

In addition to the IMIA and the CCHI, there are other national and regional organizations that you might consider joining. At the very least, it is worth researching the websites of the major national associations, as they often list valuable resources and suggestions for the aspiring interpreter. Some national organizations (such as the [American Translators Association](#)) and regional organizations (such as the [Arizona Translators & Interpreter Association](#)) also offer mentoring programs for new interpreters. Joining a regional organization in your state or city might be especially helpful, both in terms of meeting more established interpreters in your area, as well as taking advantage of the training opportunities they often provide. You may find a comprehensive list of organizations [here](#).