

Medical Interpreting

Nature of the Profession

Medical interpreters facilitate communication between patients and health care providers. They provide the language bridge between non-English speaking patients and English speaking health care professionals. In some cases, they may be able to translate simple forms and instructions.

APTITUDES

- Able to speak fluently in English and another language
- Ability to learn the techniques and topics related to medical interpreting
- Competent in the culture of both languages, including body language and gestures
- Ability to work under stressful situations
- Ability to maintain focus on a single source of sound when working in a distracting environment
- Ability to speak clearly and at an appropriate volume
- Ability to work within a variety of medical settings
- Have patience and tact

EDUCATION

Medical interpreters may earn a certificate from a community college or a 4-year baccalaureate degree. On-the-job training may also be available.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Lexington, Kearney (C)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

There is no licensing or certification required in Nebraska at this time

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters (NATI)

Web Address: www.natihq.org

California Healthcare Interpreter's Association (CHIA)

Web Address: www.chia.ws

Massachusetts Medical Interpreter's Association (MMIA)

Web Address: www.mmia.org

Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI)

Web Address: www.sominet.org