

Interpreter's Responsibilities:

- To interpret accurately and completely everything each person says, such that the listener will have the same impression of meaning they would have if both spoke the same language.
- To ask for clarification from the speaker if the interpreter did not hear, or did not understand, or if the term/phrase could legitimately have more than one meaning in the other language. (for example if the term lower limb could be either leg or foot)
- To support the therapeutic relationship by keeping a low profile, and interpreting the "unimportant" phrases that indicate listening, respect, and attention (novice interpreters sometimes assume that low if factual content is low or non-existent, there is no meaning that requires interpretation).
- To keep ones own opinions to oneself.
- To treat all clients as responsible adults.
- To view the cultural and personal beliefs of the clinician and the patient as equally valid for that person within the context of their lives and culture.
- To help both parties understand each other to the greatest extent possible.
- To share with both parties information about each other's cultures (if you have it), that may give them a context for working together to understand each other better.
- To respectfully assist either party in formulating questions that will enable the listener to provide the requested information.
- To support good health care for the patients.
- To see yourself (the interpreter) as socially and/or professionally equal to all/each of the people you interpret for.
- Ethical behavior according to the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) and other standards of practice or codes of ethics.

Clinicians Responsibilities:

- Taking a medical history.
- Making the diagnosis.
- Recommending and explaining the relevant treatment plan(s).
- Establishing and maintaining a therapeutic relationship.
- Adhering to medical ethics of his/her profession.
- Adhering to hospital policies.
- Following the insurance company regulations and/or guidelines.

Patient's Responsibilities:

- To provide accurate information requested by the clinician, for example, report symptoms as precisely as possible.
- To ask appropriate questions so he or she can work in partnership with the clinician.
- To take responsibility for taking proper steps to receive treatment, for example, telephone to schedule appointments the clinician recommends.
- To take the initiative in seeking health care, for example, telephone the provider if new symptoms appear.
- To ask questions until s/he is sure s/he understands the treatment plan as recommended.
- To bring up any reasons why s/he would not follow the recommended treatment plan, including logistical reasons such as expenses insurance may not cover, or scheduling conflicts; and cultural or personal beliefs that conflict with the recommendations, etc.