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# Professional Medical Interpreter Program

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Online Course  
Curriculum

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## Approval and Accreditation:

1. International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA)
2. California Board of Nursing

## Director:

Marlene V. Obermeyer, MA, RN

Culture Advantage is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the California Board of Nursing. Courses are approved for contact hours applicable for relicensure of nurses in the state of California. Continuing Education Provider 15854 for September 22, 2011 to September 30, 2013.

## Professional Medical Interpreter Program

- Taught by licensed healthcare professionals and professional interpreters.
- Approved for continuing education for RNs and LPNs.
- Recognized by the International Medical Interpreters Association.
- Emphasis on medical terminology to prepare interpreters for the clinical setting
- College-level Principles of Medical Interpreting courses
- Patient-centered preparation for medical interpreters
- Flexible asynchronous instructor-led online and offline assignments
- English-Spanish Program Option
- Mentoring and Coaching Options
- Language-neutral Program for all languages with optional concentrations in Arabic, Russian, Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese, Nepali, and Portuguese in development
- FAST TRACK Program for experienced interpreters and healthcare providers
- Continuing education courses in cultural competency after graduation from the program

## Course Format

Instructor-facilitated online independent study with discussion forums, audio assignments and written quizzes and exams. Each lesson must be completed before proceeding to the next.

## Average Completion Time

The average completion time for each lesson is 3-4 hours, however participants may proceed at their own pace. Part 1 must be completed successfully before access is given to Part 2. Monthly extensions are available if unable to complete the program within the Program Plan.

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## Requirements:

1. Education: College-level education or equivalent professional experience and education.
2. Language skills: Self-assessed advanced language proficiency in English and a second language (oral and written)\* or at least 2 years professional bilingual work experience.
3. Basic Internet skills (Ability to send and receive email, follow links, download and upload files, access to audios and videos, etc.)
4. Basic computer skills (Familiarity and ability to download and read WORD document, PDF files, PowerPoint, printing documents, etc.).
5. Internet access with access to audios and videos.
6. Telephone access.
7. Computer with microphone and audio recording software.

## Course Requirements to receive a certificate of completion:

1. At least 90% grade on all quizzes and exams.
2. Complete all oral and written assignments for Part 1 and Part 2 of the program with a satisfactory rating, or validate language and medical terminology competency for the Fast Track Program.
3. Professional Interpreter Skills Evaluation with satisfactory rating.

## Curriculum

### PART 1: English Spanish Medical Terminology (50-70 Hours)

The emphasis of the English-Spanish Medical Terminology course is on patient education and information during healthcare encounters requiring the services of a medical interpreter.

#### Course Description

Basic Medical Terminology is explained using combination of written lectures, audios, videos, and patient education material. Each lesson includes anatomy, common diagnostic procedures and treatment, and medical specialties.

#### Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the locations of the major structures of the human body.
2. Define common medical terminology associated with the major body systems.
3. Explain terminology related to common diagnostic procedures and treatments.

## Course Content

1. Introduction to Medical Terminology: Word Combinations
2. Cardiovascular System: Myocardial Infarction, PTCA, CABG. The Emergency Department.
3. Musculoskeletal System: Orthopedics (Back pain, joint replacement and fractures).
4. Gastrointestinal System: Abdominal pain (appendicitis, laparoscopy, abdominal surgery). Preop, post-op, and Recovery.
5. Endocrine System: Diabetes, Insulin. Medications.
6. Neurovascular System and Sensory Impairments: Stroke, spinal cord injury and rehabilitation.
7. Respiratory System: Pneumonia. Respiratory Failure (The Intensive Care Unit, ventilator support).
8. Renal and Reproductive System: Prostate and Kidney disease. Pregnancy and Delivery.
9. Oncology and the Immune System: Cancer terminology. HIV/AIDS. The infectious process and isolation precautions.

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## PART 2: Medical Interpreting Principles (20-30 Hours)

The emphasis of the Medical Interpreting Principles course is the understanding and application of concepts in the real-life setting.

### Format:

Independent study using the resources provided, supplemented with online discussions and offline assignments. Participants are expected to read and understand the articles and resources that are included in the course. Online forums are provided for the participants to discuss questions, share experiences, and provide support. If more in-depth discussion or explanation of course materials is required, private tutoring or coaching is available. Please contact me for this option.

## Course Content

### Medical Interpreter Standards of Practice (IMIA) (6-8 Hours)

#### Learning outcomes:

1. Summarize the medical interpreter's standards of practice based on the International Medical Interpreter's Association standards.
2. Explain the three major task areas of interpreting: interpretation, cultural interface, and ethical behavior.
3. Given a medical encounter scenario, choose the most appropriate interpreter action based on the Standards.
4. Discuss accuracy, confidentiality, impartiality and professionalism within the medical interpreting context.
5. Distinguish between first-person and third-person interpreting; between consecutive and simultaneous interpreting; and between translation and interpreting.

6. Demonstrate professional introduction, pre-session, self-correction, and closure activities.
7. Demonstrate beginner consecutive interpreting skills by interpreting 1-2 sentences into the target language.

### The Medical Interpreter's Code of Ethics (4-6 hours)

#### Learning Outcomes:

1. Summarize the IMIA Code of Ethics.
2. Discuss the similarities and differences between the IMIA Code of Ethics and the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) Code of Ethics.
3. Given a case study, explain how the Code of Ethics will guide the interpreter's practice in the healthcare setting.
4. Demonstrate sight translation of documents into the target language.
5. Demonstrate consecutive interpreting skills by interpreting scripted medical encounters from English into the target language.
6. Discuss end-of-life care and advance directives in both languages.

### Roles of the Medical Interpreter (8-10 Hours)

#### Learning Outcomes:

1. Discuss the four roles of a medical interpreter: Conduit, clarifier, culture broker, patient advocate.
2. Analyze a provider-patient interaction and identify the most appropriate role in the interaction using the IMIA standards and code of ethics for medical interpreters.
3. Discuss the differences in knowledge and skills between a trained and an untrained interpreter using the guidelines from the IMIA standards, code of ethics, and roles of the interpreter.
4. Prepare for professional practice by exploring different specialty areas, telephonic and video interpreting modes, and employment options.

### Professional Medical Interpreter Skills Evaluation

#### Requirements:

1. Demonstrate accuracy, fluency, comprehension and knowledge of medical terminology during the oral exam.
2. Demonstrate accurate interpretation/sight translation of document from the target language into English.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the standards, ethics, and roles of the interpreter during a simulated physician-patient-interpreter encounter.
4. For interpreters with at least 6 months of experience and currently employed in the healthcare setting, Practicum Evaluation may be required in place of the Oral Skills Exam.

\* You must be able to explain concepts, narrate and describe events, and state opinions without a lot of hesitations, filler statements, pauses, repetitions and self-corrections in both languages. You must be able to read and comprehend complex ideas, rephrase and explain them accurately in your own words in both languages, and apply the concepts to real-life scenarios. Your communication must be understood by native language speakers of the target language who may not be accustomed to speaking with non-native speakers. If you are not confident of your language skills, please contact us for a pre-assessment before you register. You may be referred for Language Coaching services or formal language proficiency testing before proceeding with the program.

### Instructors:

Rafi Merle, RRT, RPFT, NPS, BS

Rafael is Cardio Pulmonary Director at Yavapai Regional Medical Center in Prescott AZ, with 26 years of experience. He is registered in Pulmonary Functions, Registered Respiratory Therapist, Registered Neonatal Pediatric Specialist, with BS in Respiratory Care. Experience ranges from working in a Trauma Center, Acute Care, Neonatal ICU, CVICU, ICU, Clinical Faculty Coordinator as well as Systems Coordinator.

Sherrie Kreiser, RN, BSN

Sherrie is our co-instructor in English Medical Terminology and English Language Coach. She has 30 years of experience in emergency care, cardiovascular, surgery, and dialysis. Sherrie is currently a Revenue Integrity Nurse Analyst for a major national healthcare organization.

Marlene Obermeyer, MA, RN

Marlene is our director, curriculum designer and instructor for medical terminology and principles of medical interpreting. She has 30 years of experience as a registered nurse working in different specialties. She has designed over 100 contact hours of continuing education for nurses as a Kansas-approved continuing education provider. She is now an approved continuing education provider for RNs and LPNs in the state of California. Marlene is the former Kansas State Representative of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA).

Marlene has presented the [IMIA Medical Terminology Boot Camp](#) in 2010 and 2011.

For more information on our programs, please contact us: [director@culture-advantage.com](mailto:director@culture-advantage.com)