

National Certification for Healthcare Interpreters

An Update

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National Coalition on Healthcare Interpreter Certification

- Started in 2008 by NCIHC with funding from The California Endowment to bring stakeholders together.
- 15 groups were chosen that represented interpreters, healthcare providers, healthcare institutions, community advocacy groups and language service providers.

Language Line / IMIA

- While part of the Coalition, started own initiative on the side.
- Based on the LLS over-the-phone oral test and the IMIA Spanish written exam.
- Launched Spanish test Oct 10, 2009.
- \$430 for both written and oral test.
- Forming the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI).
- *www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org*

Concerns

- Not legally configured to certify.
- Limited national buy-in; only LLS and IMIA listed as supporters on their website.
- Direct conflict of interest for LLS, which is funding, leading, and partly implementing the process.

Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters

- Launched on September 15, 2009.
- Legally configured to certify as a 501©6.
- Supported by a “who’s who” in the health and interpreting field: AHA, APHA, ATA, NCIHC, ALC, NCQA, NHeLP - 29 listed.
- First meeting of commssioners, Oct. 2009.
- Certification expected by end of 2010.
- *www.healthcareinterpretercertification.org*

Impact on Washington?

It depends . . .

- Will interpreters *seek* certification through either of these processes?
- Will local employers/contractors *recognize* or *require* either certification?
- Will DSHS *deem* either test?
- How quickly will tests be available in *new* languages?

Raising the Bar

- National certification will increase the quality of interpreting in healthcare in many places.
- National certification increases the professional image of interpreters in healthcare.

For more information,
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