# Certification of Health Care Interpreters A primer, a status report and considerations for national certification

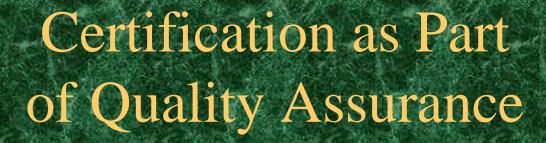
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A full report on National Certification of Health Care Interpreters in the U.S. can be found at the website of The California Endowment

Available for free download at www.calendow.org



- Assessment
- Certification
- Certificate of successful completion
- Licensure
- Accreditation



- 1. Recruiting
- 2. Language screening
- 3. Training
- 4. Assessment
- 5. Monitoring
- 6. Continuing education

### Judging a Certification's Credibility

- Is the certifying body credible?
- Is the certification instrument valid? Does it test what it says it's testing?
- Is the certification instrument reliable? Does it test consistently over forms, times and raters?
- Are the cut scores based on real data?
- Does the certification test to generally accepted and published standards of practice?

#### Who Benefits from Certification?

Patients?

• Health care institutions?

• Interpreters?

### Current Testing Instruments that have been piloted or are in use

- Connecting Worlds Partnership
- Language Line Services
- Massachusetts Medical Interpreter Association
- Oklahoma State University
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- University of Arizona, NCITRP
- Washington State DSHS

## States Pursuing Certification/Qualification

- Washington
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Indiana
- lowa

- Massachusetts
- North Carolina
- New York?
- Kentucky?

### Why is there Interest in National Certification?

- Create a national dialogue
- Pooling resources
- Increased credibility for interpreters
- Legislators more likely to provide funding
- Easier to consumers to understand
- Avoids issues of state reciprocity.
- More likely to attract development funding

### What are the Steps?

- Educate interpreter community.
- 2. Secure initial funding.
- 3. Create a representative working group to provide leadership.
- 4. Build public support.
  - 5. Choose a certifying body.
  - 6. Choose professional test developers.
  - Choose what knowledge, attitudes and skills to test.

### Steps to National Certification, con't

- 9. Pick a language pair to test.
- 10. Decide how to test.
- 11. Design a draft test.
- 12. Pilot test items (alpha test).
- 13. Analyze pilot and revise test.
- 14. Develop different versions of the test.
- 15. Set standards for grading.
- 16. Develop criteria for candidates.
- 17. Write a guide for candidates.

### Steps to National Certification, con't

- 16. Develop training materials for test administrators and raters.
- 17. Choose and train test administrators/raters.
- 18. Pilot the test (beta testing).
- 19. Analyze the results and revise the test and all support materials.
- 20. Set cut score.
- 21. Implement the certification process.
- 22. Using the above as a guide, start over with a new language.

### Additional Questions

- How can interpreters in less common languages be assessed?
- Could there be an alternate route to certification that does not include testing?
- Should certification be required?

