

Medical Terminology for Interpreters

A One-Day Workshop



If you ask a medical interpreter about his or her biggest challenge, perhaps the most common answer you'll hear is "medical terminology." There are many reasons, for example:

- The vast number of medical terms can seem overwhelming.
- Many different medical specialties use their own vocabulary.
- A number of medical terms are high-register and therefore difficult to understand, even in English.
- Health care uses many abbreviations.
- Medical terms often derive from Latin and Greek, making them unfamiliar to those without formal education in the health or allied health professions.
- Many medical terms have no exact equivalent in the target language.

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Medical terminology is essential for general, community and medical interpreters. According to the Scientific Job Analysis conducted by the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) in 2009, the precision of an interpreter's work in medical matters relies heavily on terminology.

This workshop will help interpreters understand medical terminology and develop strategies to interpret it correctly. Although no one can learn medical terminology in a day, the program provides valuable continuing education for anyone who interprets in hospitals, health departments, clinics, school health rooms, domestic violence/sexual assault services, crisis intervention and other settings.

Medical Terminology for Interpreters is a one-day, seven-hour workshop open to interpreters of any language. (There will be a special focus on Spanish.)

Objective 1: Correctly use basic medical terms in two languages.

- a. Use the meaning of Latin/Greek roots and affixes to understand and accurately interpret medical terminology.
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of basic terminology for body parts, body systems and diseases.

Objective 2: Develop skills for overcoming challenges in medical terminology.

- a. Discuss basic terms for tests and procedures.
- b. List and compare strategies and resources for learning additional medical terminology.

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Trainer Bio

Hank Dallmann, MA



The trainer for this workshop, Hank Dallmann, MA, works at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Hank Dallmann holds an MA in Spanish translation and interpreting from Rutgers University, where he has been an instructor since 2001. He has developed curricula for face-to-face, hybrid and fully online courses that he has taught in medical and community interpreting, medical translation and the required internship component of the T/I program. Currently, he teaches The Community Interpreter, Intermediate Spanish and Expository Writing.

Currently Hank is the Director of the New Brunswick Community Interpreter Project, part of the Office of Community Health at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where he is an interpreter, interpreter trainer and language access consultant. He has given numerous workshops and presentations to healthcare providers and stakeholders about language access and culture.

He has consistently worked to establish and expand professional interpreting and translation services at the RWJ Medical School, in the local community and throughout the state of New Jersey. He is presently working to lay the foundation for certification of medical interpreters in his state.

Hank was the former New Jersey State Representative, member of the Board of Directors, and the Board's State Representative liaison for the IMIA. In 2009, he was a Subject Matter Expert for the validation of the National Board's CMI test. He has lived and worked in Ecuador.

For more information, or to register for the next session,

go to www.cultureandlanguage.net and click on **Training** or contact the CCC office:

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