



The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters



Advancing the profession and ensuring patient safety



[?INTER] NATIONALLY

NBCMI or CCHI





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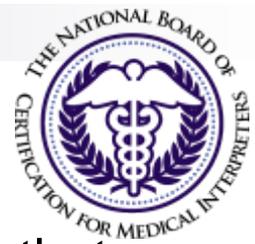


Governance

- **The National Board is a special division of the IMIA and has independent authority over all essential certification decisions.**
- **501C3 Status**

| Percentage | (Dual roles) |
|--------------|--------------|
| Interpreters | 70% |
| Trainers | 50% |
| Providers | 10% |
| Employers | 10% |

THE ROAD TO CERTIFICATION 2009-10



- **Industry job analysis** – a survey done to identify the areas that needed to be covered by the tests
- **Test development** - pool of questions, terms, multiple choices, cases developed by interpreters & trainers
- **Test review** - done with **Subject Matter Experts** from the industry and **PSI psychometricians** (test design experts who do a statistical analysis of the exams to evaluate its validity and to ensure it is a fair and valid test)
- **Pilot test** – 300 participants who volunteered & did not receive any credentials for completing the pilot
- **Publishing of the validation report** - PSI released a public technical analysis certifying the validity of the National Board Test
- **Launching of National Board** – and both written & oral exams

PROGRESS REPORT

To date:

- NCCA Accredited for Spanish
- Over 800 CMIIs
- Online, searchable registry for providers and employers
- Written exams locations: hundreds nationwide
- Oral exams: in key cities and more added continually – link is <http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/lists-testing-sites-0>
- Oral exams available: Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean. Vietnamese is in the final stages of validation.



Certification vs Certificate



Certification:

A structured testing process through which a certifying body certifies that you meet a specified standard, based on a series of requirements, and once you complete this process successfully – by passing certification exams - you are awarded a **credential** and you CAN call yourself a **Certified Interpreter**

Certificate of Completion:

You earn a Certificate of Completion when you take a course of study or training. And if you complete the course or training you receive a **certificate** of completion, you CANNOT call yourself a Certified Interpreter.

PREREQUISITES



Until December 31, 2013

→ If you have

- One year or more of proven work experience as a medical interpreter

→ Bring us:

- A letter from your employer(s) as a prerequisite to **start** the process

OR

→ If you have

- less than 1 year proven work experience as a medical interpreter
- Age: at least 18 years old
- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Medical interpreter education: at least 40 hours program
- Oral proficiency (high school or higher education or proficiency exams – see complete list on website)



CREDENTIALS

1. CERTIFIED MEDICAL INTERPRETER (CMI)

- Successful completion of process with written & oral performance exams
 - ✓ Available in **Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean**

2. QUALIFIED MEDICAL INTERPRETER (QMI)

- Successful completion of process with written & oral qualification exams
 - ✓ For **minority languages** the oral exam is done in partnership with other national testing providers

3. SCREENED MEDICAL INTERPRETER (SMI)

- Successful completion of process with written exam & review of portfolio (similar to Canadian & Australian recognition processes)
 - ✓ For newly **emerging languages** into the USA



CERTIFICATION PROCESS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Step 1: | Register online (<i>Same name as your gov'n't issued ID</i>). Fee \$30 |
| Step 2: | Written Exam (<i>in English</i>). Fee \$170 |
| Step 3: | Oral Exam (after you pass the written). Fee \$250* |

*Oregon residents pay \$235. due to a state grant.

There is a three (3) month waiting period to retake the exams.

NOTE: All fees are payable to the National Board and go towards processing registration, administering the exams, or further development of new test versions.



TAKING THE WRITTEN EXAM

■ Testing sites:

- 600 PSI sites across the U.S. using web technology
- scheduled on demand at a mutually agreed upon time

■ Format:

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 75 minutes

■ Taking the exam:

- Computer-based
- Change your answers as many times as you want
- Get your results as soon as you are done, together with the instructions on how to schedule the oral exam



WRITTEN EXAM - TOPICS COVERED

Exam is in English

| | |
|---|------------|
| Medical Knowledge and Medical Specialties | 61% |
| Roles of the Medical Interpreter | 8% |
| Medical Interpreter Ethics | 15% |
| Cultural Awareness | 8% |
| Interpreter Standards of Practice (IMIA, CHIA, NCIHC) | 5% |
| Legislation and Regulations (HIPAA, CLAS) | 3% |

Note: Content is based on Job Analysis Data statistics.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMS



CMI Candidate Handbook at www.certifiedmedicalinterpreter.org

- **Click on:** Get Certified tab, then go to How to Prepare





PREPARING FOR THE WRITTEN EXAM

Recommendations:

- Review medical terminology and medical concepts
- Review the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics from the:
 - California Healthcare Interpreter Association- www.chiaonline.org
 - International Medical Interpreter Association - www.imiaweb.org
 - National Council on Interpreting in Health Care – www.ncihc.org
- Review the Office of Civil Rights Title VI of 1964, the Health Information Privacy (HIPAA regulation) and the CLAS standards on:
 - www.hhs.gov/ocr (Title VI and HIPAA)
 - <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/> (CLAS Standards)
 - www.lep.gov

(Please note that the National Board does not endorse any resource material nor do the questions on the exam come from any particular source.)

WRITTEN EXAM EXAMPLE

QUESTION



If a patient has renal failure, this means that he/she has a disease primarily related to:

1. the pancreas
2. the kidneys
3. the liver
4. the spleen

ORAL EXAM – SKILLS TESTED

Exam in different languages



| | |
|---|-----|
| Mastery of linguistic knowledge in English and the other language | 30% |
| Consecutive interpreting and sight translation (from English into other language) skills | 25% |
| Knowledge of medical terminology and specialties - within context in both languages | 35% |
| Cultural awareness | 10% |
| Languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Available</u>: Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, Korean• Vietnamese is being validated | |

Note: Content is based on Job Analysis Survey data.



Subtopics - Medical Terminology

- Medical Tests and Diagnostics
- Medical Apparatus
- Pharmacology
- Pathologies
- Symptomatology
- Anatomy
- Musculoskeletal System
- Endocrine
- Respiratory
- Cardiovascular
- Urinary
- Nervous
- Digestive
- Reproductive
- Integumentary (skin)
- Treatments
- Acronyms and Abbreviations

Note: Content is based on Job Analysis Data statistics



TAKING THE ORAL EXAM

- **Testing site:** Proctored at selected US sites
 - Several sites around the country
 - List of sites updated continually
(<http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/lists-testing-sites-0>)
- **Length of time:** 45 min to an hour
 - Two (2) sight translation passages (10 min.)
 - Twelve (12) mini-scenarios (30 min.)
 - Unlimited time **to read** the directions and **listen to** the examples
- **Taking the exam:**
 - On a computer, with a headset and a microphone
 - Starts with a system check & set up
 - Segments are timed
- **Materials allowed:**
 - Pencil/Pen and paper for note taking
 - One paper dictionary (nothing electronic allowed)



Testing in Toronto, Canada



ORAL EXAM

Expectations



- Interpret accurately and clearly in a normal tone of voice
- Maintain the register and style of the speaker
- Use appropriate grammar and syntax
- Deliver the renditions at an even pace of delivery and with a professional demeanor
- Adhere to the correct interpreting protocol for the medical field, which is first person interpreting, or direct speech
- Interpret without summarizing or paraphrasing, or adding or omitting any information provided



PREPARING FOR THE ORAL EXAM

Recommendations

- Practice interpreting role-playing scenarios with a colleague and at the same time practice your retention and note-taking skills, trying longer and longer segments. Have them tell you if you omit, add or change information.
- Recording yourself is also a good way of gauging your performance.
- Suggested materials:
 - CCCS interpreter training materials www.EmbracingCulture.com.
 - ACEBO interpreter training materials www.acebo.com

(The National Board does not endorse any training materials nor do the questions on the exam come from any particular source.)

ORAL EXAM EXAMPLE

SIGHT TRANSLATION



Cast care instructions:

- Elevate your extremity above your heart as much as possible.
- Ice your cast for the first 48 hours to reduce swelling.
- Never submerge the cast in water.
- Take your prescribed medicine every 4 – 6 hours, as needed, for pain.
- Take an over-the-counter medication for itching.
- Call your doctor immediately if the pain gets worse or you see redness around the affected area.



Passing Score

- Written Exam – **75%**
- Oral Exam - **70%**
80% Mandarin

Remember if you don't pass the first time:

You can take it again **3** months after you have taken the initial test. The regular testing fees apply.



What is NOT tested

Based on the national job analysis survey, there are 3 components that were not included:

1. Simultaneous interpreting
2. Written translation
3. Sight translation from the target language into English

(There are 2 sight translations from English into the target language)



As a CMI, you will receive a certificate!

Adalberto
Villalobos,
CMI-Spanish
Independent
Contractor,
St. Cloud, MN



"Being a medical interpreter has given me an opportunity to grow as a person as well as a professional who assists in bridging a communication gap in situations where others benefit right away. By going through the certification process with the National Board, I was able to increase my knowledge, demand much more of myself and set my personal goals to continue growing in a field where every day is a new and exciting experience".



MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION

- All CMIs must recertify every **5 years** by participating in education directly related to medical interpretation.
- CMIs must recertify by completing **3 CEUs** (Continuing Education Units), equivalent to 30 contact hours of approved training before the credential's expiration date (5 years from initial CMI date of certification).
- **One CEU** is equal to **10 contact hours** of training (not counting meals, breaks, etc.) by most organizations. For example, a typical conference day is 0.6 CEUs.
- Individuals who fulfill this requirement will not need to retake the medical certification exams to maintain their CMI credential.
- ***All continuing education must be related to interpreting skills, ability and medical knowledge.***



The Future:

- Remote Proctoring
- Collaboration with Hawaii



Get certified!

Ensure patient safety and quality of care

Align yourself to the highly credentialed healthcare profession and be able to add your credential to your name i.e.:

Maria Lopez, CMI - Spanish

Help the profession by promoting certified interpreters in the industry and with colleagues



Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center
Coordinator and staff interpreters, all CMIs



GET INVOLVED!

- Participate in a **National Board Committee**
- Support our effort by sending us a quote of **support** or your organization's logo, with permission

- Join us:
 - Our mailing list: www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org
 - **FACEBOOK** - <https://www.facebook.com/NationalBoardCMI/>
 - **TWITTER** - NatboardCMI <http://twitter.com/@natboardcmi>
 - **LinkedIn** - National Certification for Medical Interpreters



CONTACT US

Send an e-mail to:

■ info@certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org

Visit our site:

■ www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org