

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, CMI



Hank Dallmann is a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Director of the New Brunswick Community Interpreter Project. He has led a robust training program at the medical school for Spanish-speaking dual-role interpreters at two hospitals and various community health centers in central New Jersey since 2010.

Hank also holds an ongoing, terminal appointment in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers where he teaches translation and community interpreting. His work focuses on interventions for effective communication and interpreter education, particularly with undergraduates, medical students and bilingual staff who serve as interpreters. He also educates healthcare providers and other stakeholders about practices and standards related to linguistic competency.

Hank is a practicing Spanish medical interpreter and became certified in 2010. He holds an MA in Spanish Translation and Interpreting from Rutgers University and a BA in Spanish and English from Temple University.

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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