

Lisa Southwick, PA-C, MPAS, is a nationally certified physician assistant, educator, and sign language interpreter for the deaf. Her experience and interest in curriculum development, novel teaching approaches, cultural competency training, and medical interpreting combine to create a unique perspective: that of a health care provider with an intense appreciation of and sensitivity to the critical nature of medical interpreting.

Basic Medical Terminology:

Basic medical terminology, with an emphasis on Latin derivatives, will be explored. Using hands-on practice, students will learn to interpret medical language by evaluating the prefix, root, and suffix of a word. This will not be a language specific workshop, and is appropriate for interpreters of all languages at all levels. The presenter will introduce word parts, by system (cardiac, pulmonary, etc.), enhancing application and retention. Additionally, participants will be introduced to terms related to anatomical planes, position, and movement.

The presenter uses hands-on practice, paper and small group activities, as well as lecture format to enhance learning and address all learning styles. Excerpts and activities from medical terminology texts will be utilized. A resource list will be given to participants so that they can continue to develop their medical terminology skills beyond the workshop.

Legal and Ethical Issues in Medical Interpreting:

This workshop will begin an exploration of medicolegal issues such as HIPAA, informed consent, and living wills. Some questions that will be explored include: What is the interpreter's legal risk when interpreting written forms for patient consent? What is the interpreter's responsibility in ensuring understanding? What is the provider's responsibility? How do you protect yourself and the patient?

Cases will be used to illustrate challenging medicolegal situations. In small groups, participants will work through these situations with the presenter's facilitation.

Through lecture and group discussion, participants will become more knowledgeable of the legal aspects of medical interpreting and the forms used in medical settings. Site translation will be a central focus of the discussion. This workshop will provide interpreters of all languages and levels of experience a new level of understanding of their legal responsibilities and risks in the medical setting.

The 10 Most Common Conditions:

This workshop will provide the participant with an introduction to the 10 most common medical conditions encountered in a variety of clinical settings. This workshop will build upon the keynote topic by discussing, in detail, the signs and symptoms of the most common conditions seen in the outpatient setting from the perspective of the provider.

Participants will be introduced to these conditions through case vignettes. The diagnosis and treatment of these conditions will evolve much as they do during an office visit; through discussion of the presentation, history, physical exam, and diagnostic studies. Each case will include an overview of important aspects of patient education regarding the illness, its usual course, and common treatment.

The goal of this workshop is to introduce interpreters to these common conditions, but also to give hands-on practice in understanding the process of diagnosing, treating, and educating patients. This will enhance the interpreters' ability to function effectively

when they are interpreting for patients with these common (and other) conditions. It will include lecture and small group work. Participants will be encouraged to discuss cultural variations in patient presentations and explanations of illness. This workshop is appropriate for all languages and all levels of experience.

Anatomy of a 15-minute Office

How many times have you left a medical interpreting assignment wondering what you did wrong or if you missed something critical in facilitating communication between a patient and provider? Should you have done more? Less? Interpreting in a vacuum, without the foundational knowledge to ground your interpretation, can result in frustration, self-doubt and second-guessing.

This presentation will provide participants with increased confidence and clarity when interpreting a medical encounter by “dissecting” an office visit. The presenter will take participants on a tour, a look inside the head of a medical provider. From data collection (history, physical exam, and diagnostic studies) to diagnosis to treatment and patient education, we will take a closer look at what the provider is thinking and what they hope to accomplish in the brief, 15-minute office visit.

The first part of the discussion will outline the thought process medical providers use when deciding what to ask, what to examine, and what studies to order during a medical visit. We will then discuss the concepts of differential diagnosis, diagnosis, and a problem list, the tools providers use to organize their thoughts and determine the treatment plan. Finally, a brief exploration of treatment and the goals of patient education will conclude our dissection.

The format of this presentation will be that of an anatomy lecture (“Today, students, we will be exploring the enigmatic brain of the health care provider.”), with a light-hearted, interactive approach to the material.

GOAL OF THIS LECTURE: The few studies that are available show most medical interpreting errors are errors of omission. While the studies don’t address why these omissions occur, one could infer that the interpreter cannot interpret what he or she does not understand. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to function with greater confidence and efficiency in a brief patient encounter through enhanced understanding of the healthcare provider’s thought processes.