

Comparing Codes of Ethics

IMIA Code of Ethics

1. Interpreters will maintain confidentiality of all assignment-related information.
2. Interpreters will select the language and mode of interpretation that most accurately conveys the content and spirit of the messages of their clients.
3. Interpreters will refrain from accepting assignments beyond their professional skills, language fluency, or level of training.
4. Interpreters will refrain from accepting an assignment when family or close personal relationships affect impartiality.
5. Interpreters will not interject personal opinions or counsel patients.
6. Interpreters will not engage in interpretations that relate to issues outside the provision of health care services unless qualified to do so.
7. Interpreters will engage in patient advocacy and in the intercultural mediation role of explaining cultural differences/practices to health care providers and patients only when appropriate and necessary for communication purposes, using professional judgment.
8. Interpreters will use skillful unobtrusive interventions so as not to interfere with the flow of communication in a triadic medical setting.
9. Interpreters will keep abreast of their evolving languages and medical terminology.
10. Interpreters will participate in continuing education programs as available.
11. Interpreters will seek to maintain ties with relevant professional organizations in order to be up-to-date with the latest professional standards and protocols.
12. Interpreters will refrain from using their position to gain favors from clients.

Comparing Codes of Ethics

NCIHC National Code of Ethics (reduced)

The interpreter treats as confidential, within the treating team, all information learned in the performance of their professional duties, while observing relevant requirements regarding disclosure.

The interpreter strives to render the message accurately, conveying the content and spirit of the original message, taking into consideration its cultural context.

The interpreter strives to maintain impartiality and refrains from counseling, advising or projecting personal biases or beliefs.

The interpreter maintains the boundaries of the professional role, refraining from personal involvement.

The interpreter continuously strives to develop awareness of his/her own and other (including biomedical) cultures encountered in the performance of their professional duties.

The interpreter treats all parties with respect.

When the patient's health, well-being, or dignity is at risk, the interpreter may be justified in acting as an advocate. Advocacy is understood as an action taken on behalf of an individual that goes beyond facilitating communication, with the intention of supporting good health outcomes. Advocacy must only be undertaken after careful and thoughtful analysis of the situation and if other less intrusive actions have not resolved the problem.

The interpreter strives to continually further his/her knowledge and skills. The interpreter must at all times act in a professional and ethical manner.

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CHIA Code of Ethics (reduced)

1. *Confidentiality*

Interpreters treat all information learned during the interpreting as confidential.

2. *Impartiality*

Interpreters are aware of the need to identify any potential or actual conflicts of interest, as well as any personal judgments, values, beliefs or opinions that may lead to preferential behavior or bias affecting the quality and accuracy of the interpreting performance.

3. *Respect for individuals and their communities*

Interpreters strive to support mutually respectful relationships between all three parties in the interaction (patient, provider and interpreter), while supporting the health and well being of the patient as the highest priority of all healthcare professionals.

4. *Professionalism and integrity*

Interpreters conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the professional standards and ethical principles of the healthcare interpreting profession.

5. *Accuracy and completeness*

Interpreters transmit the content, *spirit* and cultural context of the original message into the target language, making it possible for patient and provider to communicate effectively.

6. *Cultural responsiveness*

Interpreters seek to understand how diversity and cultural similarities and differences have a fundamental impact on the healthcare encounter. Interpreters play a critical role in identifying cultural issues and considering how and when to move to a *cultural clarifier* role. Developing *cultural sensitivity* and *cultural responsiveness* is a life-long process that begins with an introspective look at oneself.

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	NCIHC	IMIA	CHIA
ACCURACY	yes	not specifically	yes
CONFIDENTIALITY	yes	yes	yes
RESPECT	yes	no	yes
PROFESSIONALISM	yes	yes	yes
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	yes	yes	not specifically
ROLE BOUNDARIES	yes	yes	no
IMPARTIALITY	yes	yes	yes
CULTURAL AWARENESS	yes	yes	yes
ADVOCACY	yes	yes	no
COMMUNICATION FLOW	no	yes	no
ACCEPTING GIFTS	no	yes	no