

Hospital Interpreters Make Healthcare a Universal Language

Stanford Hospital & Clinics has one of the largest interpreter services in the healthcare field, with interpreters for Vietnamese, Spanish, Korean, Cantonese, Farsi and other languages. More than two dozen interpreters are available to translate for patients and physicians via headsets and video interpretation stations. Given that 70 percent of a physician's diagnosis is related to the physical exam and patient history, coherent communication is vitally important. Interpreters come from a wide variety of backgrounds with degrees in science or formal interpreting and translation, but each receives intensive training on medical terminology. Interpreters also are engaged in improving pathology reports, medical histories, brochures, hospital signage, research papers and discharge instructions. **What doctors find most helpful is that the interpreters can communicate patient feelings to them and improve patient relations and care.**

From "Stanford Hospital Interpreters Make Health Care a Universal Language"

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