

## Alverno Interpreter Institute: Mental Health Interpreting Workshop

### Discussion Topics/Alternative Activities

#### What would you do in the following situations?

1. After performing a pre-session, you are interpreting for a patient who understands a fair amount of English. Each time you break in to try and interpret what the doctor is saying, the doctor says, "Just wait until I am finished and see if he has any questions."
2. A patient comes in after falling down the stairs. She complains of neck pain, knee pain and sternum pain. The doctor does a quick exam and asks questions challenging the truth of her complaints. On the way out of the room, the doctor comments to you that there is nothing wrong with the patient.
3. You are interpreting in labor and delivery and a baby was just born to a mother of four. The doctor is repairing an episiotomy and says to the patient, "Should I sew you up completely? No more hanky panky?"
4. You come to an inpatient floor to interpret for a group of residents and their attending physician. When you arrive you advise them that you are the interpreter and they reply that they are done and they used the housekeeper to interpret.
5. You are interpreting for a nurse in the ER. He asks the typical medical screening questions and then asks the patient how long she has been in the United States. The patient replies, "Four years." He then asks the patient why she has not learned English yet.
6. You are sitting with a patient in the lobby of an orthopedist's office. It is a worker's compensation case and the case manager walks in and sits next to the patient. They begin to have a conversation in broken English. After a few moments the patient turns to you and starts to use you to discuss the details of her case with her case manager.
7. You are with a patient you know very well who had a mastectomy. The nurse asks which arm is better for an IV and the patient says it does not matter.

## Alternative Role Play Scenarios (non-mental health)

Choose a doctor, patient and interpreter. The patient takes the following role.

1. A patient comes in to the ER for RUQ pain that comes and goes and is especially bad after eating.
2. A patient comes to an appointment for follow-up but then states that she is having chest pain that shoots up her jaw.
3. A patient comes in after a fall from a roof with severe leg pain.
4. A patient comes in and states that she is thirsty all the time and just does not feel right.

## Simultaneous Shadowing Exercise

- Find the article in the left-hand pocket of your folder called, “Wisconsin Refugees and Mental Health.”
  - Choose a “reader” and a “shadower.”
  - The reader reads the article in English slowly at first.
  - The shadower repeats what the reader is saying **in English.**
  - The reader should speed up as possible to challenge the shadower.
  - Change roles.
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- What was difficult about this activity?
  - Are you comfortable interpreting simultaneously?
  - This exercise can be practiced by one person with the radio, television or with a friend.