

WORKING WITH AN INTERPRETER: Roles of an Interpreter and the Triadic Interview

ROLES OF AN INTERPRETER



This is the most basic interpreter role (default role). The interpreter conveys in one language literally what has been said by the other, without additions, omissions, editing or polishing.

When to adopt this role: Interpreter perceives a clear potential for misunderstanding.



The interpreter provides a necessary cultural framework for understanding the message being interpreted.

When to adopt this role: Cultural differences are leading to a misunderstanding on the part of either the provider or patient/consumer.



The interpreter explains or makes word pictures of terms that have no linguistic equivalent (or whose linguistic equivalent will not be understood by the LEP individual) and checks for understanding.

When to adopt this role: Interpreter believes it is necessary to help all participants understand.

THE TRIADIC INTERVIEW



Interpreter:

Speaks in the first person and draws as little attention as possible.



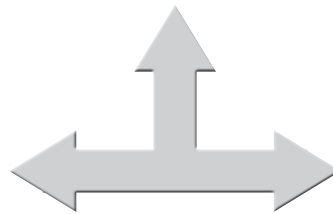
LEP Individual:

Interacts directly with the provider, speaking directly to him or her.



Provider:

Maintains control of the interview; focuses on the patient or client.



Whether you are using a live interpreter, telephonic interpreting or video-remote interpreting, most feel that the best practice for working with an interpreter involves some form of the triadic interview.

Goal of Triadic Interview = Clear Communication

Placing the LEP individual, provider and interpreter in a triadic relationship leads to good communication. Beyond creating mutual understanding between the provider and the individual seeking care/services, the triadic interview helps to create trust and ensure confidentiality.

The focus of the interaction should always be between the provider and the patient or client. The interpreter is there to ensure that everything is communicated efficiently and effectively.

