



Northeastern University

Center for Atypical Language Interpreting

ENGLISH TRANSCRIPT FOR SCENARIO 2: MEDICAL SETTING (HOSPITAL):

This is the introduction to an interpreting assignment that occurs in a Medical/Health Care setting. An interpreter has been sent to interpret in an emergency medical situation by the agency that s/he works for regularly as a freelance interpreter. The interpreter has interpreted in a variety of medical situations before.

There are two consumers. A 72-year-old Deaf man, who has some early signs of diminished cognitive functioning, has been hit by a car while crossing a street. He was rushed to the hospital and requires surgery for his injuries. His 68-year-old wife, who is also Deaf and has severe arthritis, is meeting with the surgeon when the interpreter arrives.

Next, are a series of decision points associated with this assignment. As with any interpreting assignment, different issues or demands arise that require the interpreter to make decisions using sound judgement and discretion associated with an ethical framework. There will be a total of seven such decision points in this scenario.

You will see a slide that alerts you that a decision point will follow. Watch the explanation of what happens. Then, there will be a pause for you to videotape and upload your two-minute ASL response. There are two parts to your response—what you would do and why. When you discuss the why, include information about the ethical principle or value that guides your decision. For example, maybe your decision is guided by an ethical principle involving respect for consumers, or respect for a colleague, or confidentiality, or message accuracy and accessibility, or informing the consumers when some adjustment to the communication process needs to change, or some other ethical value. Be sure to discuss what principle or value is guiding your decision.

So again, you will upload your two-minute response in ASL. Be sure to include the two parts—what you would do and why. And remember, part of the why includes information about what ethical principle or value influenced your decision.

Next you will see a slide indicating the first decision point, followed by a pause. After the pause, the next decision point will be introduced. This process will be repeated for all seven decision points. Let's begin.

Slide for Decision Point 1

The surgeon tells the Deaf wife that her husband needs surgery immediately. The doctor tells the wife they need her to sign consent forms. She feels very rushed, concerned, and confused, so

refuses. The doctor indicates that because it is an emergency, he can proceed without her consent if necessary. She states to the interpreter that she is confused as to what happened and what the surgery involves.

What could/should the interpreter do and why?

Pause and Respond Slide.

Slide for Decision Point 2

The doctor explains in detail the procedure that he will perform on her husband. With this explanation, she signs the required consent forms. The wife starts feeling physically sick and is led out of the room by the nurse and the doctor attempts to tell the Deaf patient about his surgery. The interpreter is torn about where they should be because they can hear the nurse talking to the Deaf wife and so they feel like they should be interpreting for her.

What could/should the interpreter do and why?

Pause and Respond Slide.

Slide for Decision Point 3

The wife is ultimately led back to a waiting room and the interpreter interprets while the nurse advises her that someone will provide her with an update after the husband's surgery. The wife wants to ask further questions, but the nurse is clearly wanting to leave.

What could/should the interpreter do and why?

Pause and Respond Slide.

Slide for Decision Point 4

The medical team asks the interpreter to hang around until the patient is out of surgery. They head down to the cafeteria, but on their way out, the Deaf wife rushes over to them and begins grilling them with questions regarding the situation with her husband.

What could/should the interpreter do and why?

Pause and Respond Slide.

Slide for Decision Point 5.

After their visit to the cafeteria, the interpreter feels somewhat more energized, and they head back to the surgical department just as the Deaf patient is going into recovery. The hospital room is now crammed with machines that the man is hooked up to. He has a tube down his throat, his

arms are strapped down and there is an IV inserted in one of his hands. He is also heavily sedated. Communication is nearly impossible,

What could/should the interpreter do and why?

Pause and Respond Slide.

Slide for Decision Point 6.

The wife is still in the waiting area and to the interpreter's knowledge has not yet been updated about her husband's condition.

What could/should the interpreter do and why?

Pause and Respond Slide.

Slide for Decision Point 7.

The Deaf patient is resting comfortably. The interpreter has been at the hospital for about six hours and needs to leave due to other commitments. They check in with the agency that sent them to see if a replacement interpreter is on the way. The agency indicates they have been unable to find a replacement and ask you should alert the hospital and consumers if you need to leave. They will communicate with their contact at the hospital that they will continue to work to secure a replacement to send to the hospital. The interpreter feels very conflicted as the wife is still present and awaiting further updates.

What could/should the interpreter do and why?

Pause and Respond Slide.

Closing Slide.

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