Northeastern University
Center for Atypical Language Interpreting

Assignment: Decision-Making and Continuity of Care in Healthcare Interpreting with Rubric

Assignment Format Options

This activity may be completed in one of the following formats (as determined by your instructor):

A. Large group discussion

B. Peer-to-peer discussion with report-out

C. Written homework assignment

D. Online discussion board post

Part 1: Concept Definition

Define "Continuity of Care."

In 1–2 well-developed paragraphs:

1. Provide a clear definition of continuity of care.
2. Explain why continuity of care is especially important in healthcare settings.
3. Describe how interpreters contribute to maintaining continuity of care.

Part 2: Applied Scenario – Interpreter Decision-Making

Scenario:
You have been interpreting at a hospital for a Deaf senior citizen who is an inpatient during a prolonged hospital stay. Interpreters are scheduled in 6-hour shifts with a 30-minute break. The hospital authorizes 18-hour daily coverage, with interpreters rotating in 6-hour increments.

You are finishing your shift and another interpreter is arriving to take over.

Written Response (2–3 pages or equivalent discussion post)

Address the following:

1. What information should you share with the incoming interpreter to support optimal continuity of care for the patient?

2. What clinical, interpersonal, environmental, and procedural details are important to relay?

3. What ethical considerations guide what you should and should not share?

4. How would you ensure your handoff maintains professionalism and confidentiality?

5. What potential risks exist if continuity of care is disrupted?

Support your responses with:

A. Relevant ethical frameworks (e.g., RID Code of Professional Conduct if applicable)

B. Course readings

C. Best practices in healthcare interpreting

Evaluation Criteria

Responses will be evaluated based on:

A. Clarity and completeness of definition

B. Application of course concepts

C. Depth of critical thinking

D. Ethical reasoning

E. Professional writing and organization

Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (13–15)	Proficient (10–12)	Developing (6–9)	Needs Improvement (0–5)
Accuracy & Clarity	Provides a clear, comprehensive definition; demonstrates strong understanding of healthcare context and interpreter role	Accurate definition with adequate explanation	Basic or partially accurate definition; limited explanation	Inaccurate, unclear, or missing definition
Application	Clearly connects continuity of care to interpreting practice	Some connection to interpreting practice	Minimal connection made	No connection made

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