



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL  
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION  
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOR MEDICAL  
INTERPRETING TRAINING PROGRAMS

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First National Symposium for  
Medical Interpreter Trainers

June 12, 2010 Rutgers University

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# National Accreditation Program

Why do we need a Training Program Accreditation Process?

- ❑ To promote interpreter education best practices.
- ❑ To give training programs the ability to have a seal of approval, a credential of quality and distinction.
- ❑ To give students, administrators, educators a common set of expectations regarding medical interpreting education.

# National Accreditation Program

What Accreditation programs are already available to training organizations? Do we need to reinvent the wheel?

- ❑ State accreditation for academic or occupational training programs.
- ❑ National accreditation for online training programs.
- ❑ CCIE Accreditation for ASL Training Programs.

**NOTE:** There is currently no national accreditation specifically for medical interpreter training programs. Our accreditation will require state accreditation at a minimum.

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# National Accreditation Program

Why is the IMIA working on this?

- ❑ To create a distinction program for training organizations so to be noted in the National Training Program Registry
- ❑ Because the IMIA prefers to work on standardization projects that can be applied via accreditation, versus theoretical approaches such as standard documents which can or not be followed.

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# National Accreditation Program

What components do most accreditation programs include?

- ❑ State or national accreditations
- ❑ Instructor/Faculty qualifications
- ❑ Financial resources
- ❑ Physical resources
- ❑ Admission policies and procedures
- ❑ Evaluation of candidates

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# National Accreditation Program

What components do most accreditation programs include?  
Cont.

- ❑ Fair practices (advertisement, recruitment, requirements, tuition)
- ❑ Content/Curriculum (not prescriptive)
- ❑ Modalities and Modes of Interpretation
- ❑ Program Evaluation
- ❑ Quality Improvement
- ❑ Training Materials Provided or Required
- ❑ Language Group Support (language coaches, language specific materials)

# National Accreditation Program

What has the IMIA done so far.

- The IMIA has studied different accreditation programs (2007-2008)
- The IMIA has decided on the which components will be incorporated in its Accreditation standards (2009)
- The IMIA has decided on which programs it will accredit (2009)
  - Intensive Community or Medical Interpreting Programs
  - Academic Community or Medical Interpreting Programs
  - Remote Community or Medical Interpreting Programs

NOTE: For 'Community' Interpreting Programs, there will be minimal requirements for the medical interpreting specialization portion of the program.

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# National Accreditation Program

What is next?

- ❑ Development of Accreditation Advisory Board
- ❑ Development of Accreditation Standards
- ❑ Development of Accreditation Process
- ❑ Launch of Program
- ❑ Communication of Program to all training organizations and other stakeholders

# National Accreditation Program

Do you want to join the IMIA Accreditation Advisory Board?

This is a public open call:

- ❑ Monthly conference call meetings
- ❑ Practicing trainers from different types of programs
- ❑ Administrators of training programs
- ❑ Trainers from different language groups
- ❑ Group of 8-12 members
- ❑ Selection of Advisory Board announced in July
- ❑ If interested please email [IMIATrainersDivision@gmail.org](mailto:IMIATrainersDivision@gmail.org)  
(resume and 200 word letter of intent describing what you can bring to the group)

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# National Accreditation Program

Questions?