

THE MAYA HEALTH TOOLKIT FOR MEDICAL PROVIDERS

The Interpreters Network developed out of the Maya Health Toolkit for Medical Providers. Maya have long traditions of medical practices and beliefs, and understanding and appreciating their views and their holistic health beliefs will help promote a healthcare environment unobstructed by cultural differences. We designed the Maya Health Toolkit to be effective with all Maya, but the language resources contained within the toolkit specifically focus on four of the Guatemalan Maya language groups: Chuj, K'iche', Mam, and Q'anjobal. These groups have significant numbers of Maya-speakers in the United States with basic illiteracy and low Spanish language skills due to a lack of access to education in Guatemala. Maya who most need help with communication neither read nor write, and Maya interpreters who have training in medical translation are few in number, thus this toolkit included the establishment of the National Interpreters Network. The Pastoral Maya worked directly on the Toolkit, giving information and advice, and conducting data gathering in Georgia, California, South Carolina, Oregon, and Nebraska. Data collection involved conversations with academic scholars, healthcare providers, social workers, and professionals. The Guatemalan Consul General of Atlanta also provided advice. Academic key publications have been listed in the Literature Review.

See: <http://www.brycs.org/maya-toolkit/index.cfm>

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