

DPSI Mental Health Add-on

Please note that the Mental Health add-on option for the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI) is open to all existing holders of the full DPSI in any option.

Introduction:

Interpreting in a Mental Health environment requires training, which includes instruction in the context and purpose of assignments in this field and how they might differ from interpreting in other domains.

Interpreters should appreciate that, on occasion, they may be pushed to the boundaries of their Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct, which include the requirement for total accuracy and impartiality in transfer of the meaning of what is said, and confidentiality. They must be acutely aware of the necessity to understand and adhere to their codes whilst working in the mental health field.

There are two broad challenges for interpreters working in this field. The first refers to the fact that interpreters are working with healthcare workers who, when required to do so, are trying to ascertain the patients' level of psychological wellbeing. These service providers will have had a lengthy training in how to do this and will have a specific approach in mind to achieve their goal. Prior briefing of interpreters, as to the approach to be taken, will improve the quality of interpreting and allow the interpreters to raise any relevant linguistic points.

The second challenge is the fact that, at times, the patients' language, communication and modes of expression can be impaired or distorted by their illness. For the protection of the patient, the mental health service and the interpreters, interpreters must be alert to when they cannot decode accurately what patients are saying and, in observance of their code, report

that to the healthcare worker for alternative approaches to be sought and a record made.

Assignments can sometimes be upsetting for all parties involved which is why line-managers and staff exist who can be approached for support if necessary. A free-lance interpreter does not automatically have this support unless it is agreed in advance between the healthcare service and the interpreters that a de-briefing can, where appropriate, take place after assignments to resolve any concerns.

When teaching interpreters to work in the field of mental health, it is therefore of the utmost importance to give the student interpreters the best possible understanding of their role and remit. Trained interpreters who understand both what they can properly contribute and the boundaries of their professional role, and who will point these out to the healthcare provider, can be of valuable assistance.

Interpreter Requirements	"At Risk" Groups	Refugees, Asylum Seekers
		English as a second language
		Migrant Population
The Interpreter's Role & Boundaries	Varying titles for interpreters in this field	interpreter
		linkworker
		bi-lingual/multilingual worker
	Use of unqualified other language speakers	untrained interpreters
		professionals
		family members, friends
	Interpreting versus other roles	Professional
		Advocacy (various models)
	Situational dynamics	Triadic dynamics
		3-way communication
		Power dynamics
		Interpreter Continuity/Rotation
		Briefing, De-briefing
	Health & Safety Issues	Expectations (collusion, fraternising)
		Interpreter's Personal Safety
Positioning		
Voice Control		
Body Language, eye contact		
Barriers		
Ethics	Training, support, supervision	
	NRPSI Code of Conduct	
	Codes of Conduct - Mental Health Act etc.	
Mental Health/Mental Illness	Definitions	Confidentiality
		Mental Health
		Mental Illness
		Psychiatry
Mental Health Categories	Neurotic Disorders	Psychology
		Stress
		Anxiety

		Depression
		Eating Disorders
		Phobias
	Psychopathic Disorders	Schizophrenia
		Paranoia
		Personality Disorder
	Organic Disorders	Dementia
		Alzheimers
	Substance Misuse	Drugs
Legislation	Mental Health Act	Assessment
		Sectioning
	Human Rights Act etc.	
	Equality & Diversity (various aspects)	race
		culture
		ethnicity
		age
		gender
		disability
Professionals	General	GP
		Psychiatrist
		Approved Social Workers (ASW)
		Community Mental Health Teams
		Mental Health Act Commissioner
		Psychologist
		Psychotherapist
		Counsellors
		Other Therapists e.g. Cognitive Behaviour Therapist
		Police (Section 135&136)
	Other Providers	Voluntary Organisations
		Community Organisations
		Traditional Healers
Diagnosis	Signs & Symptoms	Loss of Appetite

		Disturbed Sleeping Patterns
		Unreasonable Behaviour
		Irrational Responses
		Psychosomatic Symptoms
	Assessment	Full Physical Medical
		Mental Health Assessment
		Environmental Assessment
Treatments	Medical Treatment	Electro-convulsive Therapy (ECT)
		Side-effects
	Procedures	
	Talking Therapies	
	Alternative Treatments	
Services & Departments	In-Patient	Residential
		Adults
		Older Age
		Acute
		Chronic
	Out-Patient	
	Day Care	
	Community Care	
	Outreach Services	
Language in Mental Health	Terminology	Medical Terminology
		Phrases & Expressions
	Language Barrier	Learning Difficulties (e.g. Mental Age)
	Children in Mental Health	