Language Access Work Group

TABLE ONE – Draft Options for State of Washington Medical Interpreter Testing and Certification

	Medical Interpreter Option	Option Provides				
		Pre-Test Screening	Training, Exam Prep, and Continuing Ed	Testing	Certification	Post-Certification & CEU Tracking
1.	**Community College – Career Pathway** Community colleges would screen, train, test, and offer continuing education to medical interpreters and candidates	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
2.	**Community College – Education Only** Community colleges would offer training, exam prep, and continuing education to medical interpreters and candidates	No	Yes	No	No	No
3.	**DES Contracts with National Medical Interpreter Certifying Body** The contracted vendor would independently provide all elements of medical interpreter certification, from screening through post-certification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	**DSHS Continues Third-Party Entity Testing with Additional Funding** DSHS continues to provide support for medical interpreter certification with third-party testing, exam prep training, and continuing education	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
5.	**State Centralized Office for Screening, Certification, and Post-Cert** A brand-new, state-centralized office would be created to screen, certify, and handle post-certification responsibilities for all types of interpreters in the state, including medical, court, social service, quasi-legal, etc.	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
6.	**State Centralized Office Partners with Community Colleges** A brand-new, state-centralized office would partner with community colleges. Together, they would provide all elements of certification for all types of interpreters in the state, including medical, court, social service, quasi-legal, etc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

For detailed descriptions of each element that may be provided by the options, please see **TABLE TWO** below.

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TABLE TWO – Draft Description of Core Elements of Medical Interpreter Testing and Certification

Pre-Test Screening	Training, Exam Prep, and Continuing Education	Testing	Certification	Post-Certification & CEU Tracking
Documentation that demonstrates oral and written proficiency in English and the non-English language as a prerequisite for taking the written tests.	Train candidates to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become competent, qualified interpreters.	Testing of knowledge and skills required of competent, qualified interpreters.	An interpreter candidate must pass all required tests, orientations, and other requirements, if applicable, to be eligible for requesting a credential.	Requirements for maintaining certification, and the process of certification revocation.

• Age
• General education background
• Experience
• Non-English language proficiency
• TOEFL / ACTFL / other well-designed English language proficiency tests
• Cultural knowledge
• Medical interpretation training
• Evidence/documentation of eligibility requirements
	• Interpreter skills
	• Cultural competency
	• Ethics / Code of Conduct
	• Medical terminology/ U.S. healthcare system
	• Sight translation
	• Consecutive interpretation
	• Interpreter Standards of Practice
		• Test on what people are trained on
		• Testing meets federal standards and requirements for reliability and validity
			• Orientation trainings
			  ◦ Professional code of ethics
			  ◦ Knowledge about work domain (e.g., site/situation/environment specific)
			• Practicum
				• Continuing education credits
				• Code of conduct acknowledgement
				• Background check, if needed
				• Maintain updated roster of active interpreters
				• Disciplinary management (e.g., revocation)
				• Quality assurance/ monitoring
				• Language access data

NOTE: In Addition, the Work Group Would Like to Recommend These Other Factors Be Considered

- Scholarships/funding
- Reporting of testing scores
- Accessibility
  - Languages of lesser diffusion
  - ASL
  - Neurodiverse
- Partnerships
- Testing/proctoring software
- Testing availability – trends in immigration
- Other ways for the state to consistently support interpreters for court, quasi-legal, educational settings, etc.