

and formally evaluating written exam items based on the exam content specifications.

Following a rigorous training process on test item writing and standard setting, each panel of experts began the test item writing process, based on the test specifications established by the job analysis. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) evaluated each item with respect to relevance to occupational requirements and the need for competence upon certification; and estimated difficulty for practicing professional interpreters.

Following extensive pilot testing of both the written and oral exams, final exam forms were developed and administered. No credentials were granted for taking the pilot exams; the data was used to finalize both exams.

Studying for the Exams

Candidates are encouraged to be familiar with the recognized Interpreter Standards of Practice, Codes of Ethics, and the CLAS Standards:

- CHIA Standard of Practice (www.chiaonline.org)
- IMIA Standards of Practice (www.imiaweb.org/standards/)
- IMIA Code of Ethics (www.imiaweb.org/code/)
- NCIHC Ethics and Standards of Practice (www.ncihc.org/ethics-and-standards-of-practice)
- CLAS Standards (<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=53>)

In addition, candidates should review the exam content outlines below.

Additional Study Tips

- Review medical terminology using medical glossaries and dictionaries
- Review basic medical information and human anatomy.
- Review interpreter training manuals such as CCCS and ACEBO.
- Attend workshops, conferences, and other training opportunities.
- Review regulations and guidelines, including:
 - The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule (www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/)
 - Title VI and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (www.LEP.gov)
 - HHS Office of Civil Rights (www.hhs.gov/ocr/)
- Review resources on cultural awareness
 - The Cross Cultural Health Program (www.xculture.org)

- Diversity RX (www.diversityrx.org)
- HHS Office of Minority Health Cultural Competency (minorityhealth.hhs.gov)
- EthnoMed (ethnomed.org)

The above references are just a sample of the information that is available on the Internet; these citations do not indicate endorsement.

Written Exam Content Outline

The written exam is offered only in English. The written exam is a multiple choice, computerized exam, containing 51 questions. The written exam evaluates:

8%	Topic 1: Roles of the Medical Interpreter <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Role of Conduit> Role of Clarifier> Role of Culture Broker> Role of Patient Advocate
15%	Topic 2: Medical Interpreter Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Confidentiality> Accuracy and completeness> Impartiality> Conflict of Interest> Scope of Practice> Disqualification/Impediments to Performance> Professional Courtesy> Professional Development
8%	Topic 3: Cultural Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Cultural practices related to healthcare> Familial and relational structures
38%	Topic 4: Medical Terminology in Working Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Medical Tests and Diagnostic Procedures> Medical Apparatus> Pharmacology> Pathologies> Symptomatology> Anatomy> Musculoskeletal System> Endocrine System> Cardiovascular System> Respiratory System> Urinary System> Nervous System> Digestive System> Reproductive Systems

- > Integumentary System
- > Treatments
- > Acronyms and Abbreviations (e.g., MRI, CAT scan, etc.)

23% Topic 5: Medical Specialties in Working Languages

- > Obstetrics and Gynecology/Genetic Counseling
- > Organ Transplant
- > Pharmacy
- > Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)
- > Pediatrics
- > Emergency Medicine
- > Oncology
- > Surgery
- > Orthopedics
- > Radiology
- > Nutrition Counseling
- > Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy
- > Urology and Nephrology
- > Endocrinology
- > Ophthalmology
- > Cardiology
- > Neurology
- > Hematology
- > Dermatology
- > Psychiatry
- > Respiratory Illness

5% Topic 6: Interpreter Standards of Practice

- > IMIA (International Medical Interpreters Association) Standards
- > NCIHC (National Council on Interpreting in Healthcare) Standards
- > CHIA (California Healthcare Interpreters Association) Standards

3% Topic 7: Legislation and Regulations

- > Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- > CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Standards

Note: In addition to the number of examination items specified, a small number (five to ten) “pretest” questions may be administered to candidates during the examinations. These questions will not be scored and the time taken to answer them will not count against examination time. The administration of such non-scored experimental questions is an essential step in developing future examinations.

Oral Exam Content Outline

The oral exam is a computerized exam that is 45-60 minutes in length. Candidates have 10 minutes to complete 2 sight translation passages and 30 minutes to complete 12 mini-scenarios. The oral exam evaluates:

15%	Topic 1: Mastery of Linguistic Knowledge of English
15%	Topic 2: Mastery of Linguistic Knowledge of the other language
25%	Topic 3: Interpreting Knowledge and Skills
10%	Topic 4: Cultural Competence
25%	Topic 5: Medical Terminology in Working Languages
10%	Topic 6: Medical Specialties in Working Languages

To assist you with the oral exam format, a Candidate Preparation Document with detailed information on the exam format is available on the NBCMI website.

Simultaneous interpreting, written translation, and sight translation into English are not tested. The job analysis showed that while medical interpreters sometimes perform these tasks, the frequency was not statistically significant.

Taking the Exams

The oral and written exams are offered via computer based testing (CBT) at professional testing centers through contracted test administration vendors. The written exam must be taken and passed before the oral exam may be scheduled.

Written Exam

Candidates are eligible to take the written exam after their application, with documentation of prerequisites, has been approved by the National Board. The written exam is offered only in English, and any candidate who meets the prerequisites may take the exam, regardless of language.

After receiving approval to take the written exam from the National Board, candidates will receive detailed instructions on how to schedule their exam. The cost is \$175. and exams are given year-round. The exam must be scheduled within 6 months from the date of approval.

The written exam is a multiple choice, computerized exam, containing 51 questions. All candidates will have up to 75 minutes to complete the exam.

Oral Exam

Once a candidate successfully passes the written exam, that candidate will receive information on how to schedule their oral exam. The cost is \$275. and the exam is given year-round. Candidates are eligible to take the oral exam within 6 months of the date they pass the written exam. Once the oral exam has been scheduled, candidates are sent additional information with confirmation of their testing appointment and test center policies.

Note: If the oral exam is not available for the candidate's language, and the oral exam for their language is developed later, they will have six months from the time the oral exam in their language is launched in order to take the exam.

Candidates are allowed 45-60 minutes to complete the oral exam; 30 minutes for 12 mini-scenarios and 10 minutes for 2 sight translation passages. The exam is computer-based and candidate's oral responses will be recorded.

Detailed information on taking the oral exam is available online at www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org.

Candidates should review carefully the Candidate Preparation Document, which contains the Examination Security policy. This document is available on the National Board website. Failure to follow candidate instructions will result in the application being voided and forfeiture of the fee for the exam.

All tests are recorded and kept on file in a secure location for quality assurance purposes, as well as to ensure the reliability and validity of the assessment.