How to work with an interpreter

These steps relate to all languages other than sign language.



Introduce yourself and your interpreter.

You may need p
to brief your
interpreter prior
to the interview,
e.g. patients with a
speech impairment,
psychiatric problems
or serious injuries
in the Emergency
Department.

Allow extra time for the interview.

Use plain English

–avoid medical
jargon where
possible.

Don't ask the interpreter to fill in forms for patients.

fill in forms for patients.

Sit or stand facing the client with the interpreter about half way between you to form a triangle. This will encourage eye contact between all parties. If there are more than three people, adapt the seating arrangement.



Speak directly to the client, e.g. "How are you?" instead of saying to the interpreter "Ask him how he is."



or two
sentences at
a time so the
interpreter can
remember
and interpret
accurately.

Use short sentences. Speak one

Avoid using abbreviations, slang, and sayings, as these are very difficult to interpret.

Maintain control over the interview.