

Quick Guide to becoming a Healthcare Interpreter



What to know about becoming a *qualified* or *certified* interpreter in Oregon



What is a healthcare interpreter?

Interpreters serve an important role between health providers and patients (and their families). They interpret what is being said from the first language to the second language—and back and forth.



Qualified vs. Certified

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Health Care Interpreter Program recognizes two levels of credentialing: **qualification** and **certification**.

- ✓ Both are registered by OHA.
- ✓ Both must complete an OHA-approved 60-hour training program.
- ✓ Both require 24 hours of OHA-approved continuing education (CE) every four years.
- ✓ **Certified interpreters** get their certification by passing a national exam for medical interpreters.

See OHA's [side-by-side comparison checklist](#) by going to [Oregon.gov](#): Enter **HCI Requirements** in the search field.



Submitting the OHA application

Bilingual clinic staff members can begin the process of becoming qualified or certified through an OHA-approved 60-hour training program. Upon receiving a certificate of completion, you're ready to submit the OHA application. See the [Application for Health Care Interpreter](#) by going to [Oregon.gov](#): Enter **HCI Health Care Interpreter Application** in the search field.



When your application is approved

After your OHA application is approved (and you appear on the OHA registry), you will need to fill out our Medicaid Provider Validation Form. It's available at [CommunitySolutions.PacificSource.com/Providers/DocumentsAndForms](#).



Are you currently working for a clinic?

If you're a healthcare employee who also serves as a credentialed interpreter, it helps to know that clinics can be reimbursed for interpreter services by using the **T1013 billing code**. Also helpful is our Health Care Interpreter (HCI) Guidelines FAQ at [CommunitySolutions.PacificSource.com](#): to download the **HCI Guidelines FAQ (pdf)**, go to **Documents and Forms** under the **Providers** tab.



Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Online

Credentialing Training Information

oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/hci-training.aspx

Requirement Checklist for Qualified and Certified Interpreters

oregon.gov/oha/OEI/Documents/Oregon%20Health%20Care%20Interpreter%20Program%20Requirements_.pdf

Health Care Interpreter Application

oregon.gov/oha/OEI/Documents/Health%20Care%20Interpreter%20Application.pdf

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Other helpful links

Medicaid Validation form

CommunitySolutions.PacificSource.com/Providers/DocumentsAndForms

Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association

ohcia.org



We can help! It's why we're here.

The steps to become a credential interpreter can be confusing, which is why we want to help.

For information about training and resources to become credentialed, contact our Population Health team at **888-977-9299** or PopulationHealth@PacificSource.com.

For provider credentialing information, contact our Provider Service team at **800-431-4135** or Credentialing@PacificSource.com.