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Deaf Medical Students



Dual Accommodations: Interpreting and Speech-to-Text Services

Dual accommodations of interpreting and speech-to-text services is common when course content is highly technical and/or complex in nature. Read more at: nationaldeafcenter.org/dualservices



Transparent/Clear Surgical Masks

Traditional surgical masks are opaque and prevent visual access to reading lips and mouth movements. There are multiple vendors that produce transparent surgical masks to allow access to communication. More information available at amphi.org



Remote Access Services

Remote access to interpreting or speech-to-text services are viable options when facing barriers to accessing qualified and/or specialized services providers, especially in rural areas. Read more at: nationaldeafcenter.org/remoteservices



Stethoscopes for Deaf Individuals

Visual and amplified stethoscopes are readily available to deaf medical students as reasonable accommodations to perform essential job functions in the medical field. More information available at amphi.org

Specialized Service Providers

There are several intensive trainings as well as certification programs that specialize in medical and mental health fields. Most notably include the **Mental Health Interpreter Training Project (MHIT)** who sponsors the **Qualified Mental Health Interpreter (QMHI)** training and certification program. The Rochester Institute of Technology offers a "**Certificate in Healthcare Interpreting**" (CHI) program that offers specialized professional development for interpreters working in general healthcare environments. The Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) offers a **Medical Interpreter Certification** for those who have achieved a generalist certification, completed extensive medical interpreting training, and successfully pass the medical interpreting exam. Speech-to-text services do not currently have a specific certification for providers who specialize in medical-related assignments, however, institutions can seek providers who have **extensive training and experience** working with medical related terminology.

Planning Ahead

Deaf Students Participating in Healthcare Internships & Clinicals

Disability services professions, deaf students, and internship site coordinators can work together in order to implement accommodations and communication strategies during clinicals. Below is a list of questions to consider when planning for communication access in healthcare environments:

Essential Job Functions

- What considerations for accommodations or communication would be necessary to perform the essential job functions?
- What accommodations or communication strategies will mitigate barriers to performing job functions?
- Will the student use the phone as a part of the internship experience? If yes, how will the student plan to communicate over the phone?

Communication Access

- How will the student communicate in the following scenarios:
 - One-on-one meetings with field placement site coordinator or supervisor
 - Group/staff meetings
 - Observation opportunities with other staff
 - One-on-one interactions with patients
- What are some potential accommodations in these situations?
- What are some strategies for communicating with internship staff when speech-to-text services (CART, C-Print, TypeWell) or interpreting services are unavailable?
- Is the student willing to work with remote speech-to-text professionals or interpreters if an on-site service provider is unavailable? In what situations would a remote provider be an ineffective accommodation?

Auxiliary Aids

- Does the student have experience utilizing assistive listening devices such as FM/DM systems? If yes, in what situations has it been effective?
- Are captions available for multimedia or audio-based content (e.g. training or safety in the workplace videos)?

Accommodation Protocol

- Has the on site staff received any training on interacting effectively with deaf individuals? If not, who will provide these trainings?
- What is the protocol for addressing concerns, problems, or challenges regarding on-site accommodations?

