

Appendix F – Guidelines for medical staff to work along with an interpreter

- 10 – 15 minutes pre-session with the interpret to:
 - Decide the organisation of the room. Most of the participants thought that the best arrangement of the chamber is the triad, where the interpreter situates between the patient and the mental health worker.
 - Make sure the interpreter speaks the first language of the patient.
 - Make sure that the interpreter has previous experience and knowledge in mental health to carry out a more productive task.
 - Comment on how you two are going to work together, the aims of the session and if you need to exchange valuable cultural and contextual information.
 - Clarify technical and specific concepts, vocabulary or jargon.
- Try to use the same interpreter for the same client, as it will be useful for you to have an interpreter in all the acts of communication with the patient or their families if they do not speak the same language either.
- The patient can feel uncomfortable with an interpreter in the room. It is important to explain who is the interpreter, why is he/she there and what is he/she going to do.
- Avoid ad-hoc interpreters like family members.
- 10 minutes post-session with the interpreter to:
 - Comment the interpreting task and other relevant issues.
 - Make sure your interpreter is well after the interpretation as some patients' situations can affect them.
 - Review any specific words and cultural aspects to ensure clarity of meaning.
 - Ask for feedback to the interpreter as well as mention them some observations about the session.

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