



MIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Communiqué

Second Meeting, Sub-Working Group on Effective Communication and Working with Interpreters Standards – Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership

1 August 2017

Sub-Working Group on Effective Communication and Working with Interpreters Standards met for the second time via teleconference on 1 August 2017. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the process of drafting the standards so far, and to discuss issues that ought to be considered as the drafting process moves forward.

The collaboration experience in drafting the standards was overwhelmingly positive, with interpreting practice, policy expertise and clinical expertise complementing each other. Members agreed on steps to further the drafting process.

The structure of the Standards was discussed at length. It was agreed that the standards should be kept concise, and that a preamble opening would provide an overview of existing policies. Any existing material used in the Standards will be referenced accordingly and permission for use sought, as necessary.

The group agreed to seek ethics advice on the issue of clinicians briefing interpreters prior to consultation, and the impact on trust that may have between the clinician and the patient. In this regard, suggestions were made as to how the role of the interpreter may be framed, and how the function and scope of the briefing may be defined.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss other issues relevant to the standards, including, ethical implications of clinicians briefing interpreters prior to consultation and the impact that may have on trust between the clinician and the patient. Further, a need to investigate the implications for migrant patients speaking Auslan and other sign languages was also recognised, noting the complexity of interpreting for speakers of British or American sign language.

The group identified a number of issues relevant to the use of technology in interpreting, and how these may be addressed in the Standards. These included the evolution of speech-to-speech translation and existing dedicated medical applications, the preferencing of face-to-face and in person interpreting, and the benefits and practical limitations of video interpreting.

The next meeting of the Sub-Working Group is scheduled to be held in late September.

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