



Minnesota Interpreter NEWSLETTER

BEST PRACTICES

STEPPING OUT OF THE ROOM WHEN CARE TEAM IS NOT THERE

Did you know that stepping out of the room while the clinician, nurse or other member of the care team is not in the room is considered a best practice in the Interpreting Industry? The reasons for this are plentiful, including protecting patient privacy and protecting yourself.

Being in the room when there is not a care team member present opens you up to:

- Conversations about topics you may not be comfortable or should not share with the patient about
- Unnecessary exposure to illness
- Potential unnecessary accusations about professional behavior
- Other conflicts of interest for example, knowing information about the patient's medical history that the patient asks you not to share with the medical provider

Additionally, it is a part of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care Code of Ethics to promote

patient autonomy and protect patient confidentiality. For our patient's safety too, it is important that we follow this best practice.



Remember: When you step out of the room, please stay within sight of the patient room so the care team knows where you are and you can be available to interpret as soon as the care team enters the room.

Since this can be a change from what the patient expects, it is a good idea to introduce this practice to the patient along with yourself and other role expectations prior to the appointment beginning. If you've not followed the practice with a patient in the past, explain to them why this is good for all parties.

If the care team questions, this practice, you can either explain why this is a best practice or refer them to the Interpreter Services department in their organization or your agency for further explanation.

When Are the ISG Meetings?

Currently meetings are scheduled on the 2nd Friday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm. The ISG will be flexible to meet the demands of membership and is considering adding quarterly evening or weekend meetings.



Where Can I Find More information?

More information can be found at www.isgmidwest.org

If you would like to continue to receive this monthly newsletter, please sign up at www.isgmidwest.org under "Interpreter Newsletter Sign-up" link.