



INforMHAA: Interpreter-mediated Mental Health Act Assessments

Best practices for Approved Mental Health Professionals and Interpreters working together

RESOURCE R9: Minimum best practice checklist for AMHPs in an interpreter-mediated MHAA

This checklist has been created to focus on specific practice in the MHAA and aims to assist AMHPs when undertaking a MHAA when an interpreter is involved. It is a summary of the information available in the previous parts of the guidance. For a full explanation of why these headings are important and what should be included, see relevant parts of the guidance as indicated.

Heading/topic	Brief explanation	Relevant part of this guidance
The need for an interpreter has been established and language preference of the person being assessed established	If any doubt over whether an interpreter is required err on the side of booking one. Language preference is not necessarily straightforward.	Part 2: Context and key roles Part 4: When and why booking interpreters Part 13: Governance, accountability and safeguarding
Interpreter sourced	Establish whether attendance is in person or remote and consider impact on person accordingly.	Part 4: When and why booking interpreters Part 12: Issues in recording Part 13: Governance, accountability and safeguarding
Inform the person being assessed who the interpreter is	This is courtesy but it also serves to establish whether the given interpreter is acceptable or whether there might be a conflict of interest or pre-existing familiarity that is not helpful.	Part 4: When and why booking interpreters
Interpreter briefed	To ensure best joint working practice.	Part 5: Briefing Part 6: Key legal concepts and terms

Heading/topic	Brief explanation	Relevant part of this guidance
Check understanding	Check that the interpreter understands the person being assessed and vice versa, as there are many language variants and dialects so although an interpreter may be professionally qualified in a particular language it does not guarantee understanding on both sides.	Part 7: Types of interpreting
Interview undertaken	It may be necessary to consider stopping the interview or changing the approach to interpreting	Part 8: Stopping an assessment
Decision making	Consider input of interpreter in clear information sharing.	Part 3: Legal decision making Part 9: Cultural sensitivities and cultural brokering
Interpreter debriefed	To support the interpreter and to learn for future joint practice	Part 11: Debriefing
Record of interview to include use of interpreter and language preference of the person	To include details of interpreter involvement, details of the language, remarks on process/interview.	Part 12: Issues in recording
Note issues of good practice and/or concerns.	Lessons learned and shared.	Part 10: The patient full journey

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