CCHI conducted its third national Job Task Analysis (JTA) study in 2022 to create the overarching framework for its certification examinations: CoreCHI ™, CHI ™, and ETOE ™.

The data collected in the JTA study defines the healthcare interpreter at the entry point to the profession as:

A person who is able to perform the functions of a healthcare interpreter competently, independently, and unsupervised in any setting and in any modality where health care is provided, with the knowledge, skill, and ability required to relay messages accurately from a source language to a target language in a culturally competent manner and in accordance with established ethical standards.


Knowledge Examination
(100 multiple-choice questions in English, 85 scored questions, 15 pretested)
Effective May 1, 2023

Test Domains & Tasks
Percent of Test

I. Professional Responsibility and Interpreter Ethics ........................................23%
1. Apply established codes of ethics and standards of practice, and resolve ethical dilemmas as needed, to support optimal patient outcomes and maintain the integrity of the healthcare interpreting profession.
2. Uphold the boundaries of the interpreter’s professional role to respect the autonomy, needs, and contributions of all parties.
3. Maintain impartiality by recognizing and suspending the interpreter’s own values, beliefs, and biases to convey the perspectives of all parties.
4. Assess the need for advocacy by considering all available information and determining the degree of action necessary to prevent harm or disrespect to any party, and act within appropriate limitations.
5. Adhere to personal and occupational safety measures by following standard precautionary protocols to reduce the risk of harm and disease.
7. Maintain interpreter certification credential(s) and pursue professional growth and development by keeping abreast of working languages and their variants, relevant legislation, health care delivery systems, and public health guidelines.

II. Managing the Interpreting Encounter .................................................. 24%
1. Self-monitor one’s ability to interpret in a given encounter by considering personal, linguistic, and cultural factors, as well as recognizing modality limitations.
2. Manage unfamiliar terms and concepts while maintaining transparency and supporting effective communication for all parties.
3. Establish communication protocols, choose the appropriate interpreting modes according to the communication needs, and manage the flow of communication by intervening as needed, guided by the professional standards of practice.

III. Healthcare Terminology .................................................................... 25%
1. Keep current on healthcare terminology and language usage in the healthcare context in working languages.

IV. U.S. Health Systems .............................................................................. 13%
1. Maintain familiarity with U.S. health systems, their cultures, organizational structures, and related legal and socioeconomic environments, in order to anticipate and respond appropriately to situations and navigate the systems.

V. Cultural Responsiveness ...................................................................... 15%
1. Avoid making assumptions about factors such as a party’s identity, meaning, and intention, recognizing that individuals have different levels of acculturation and intracultural variation.
2. Serve as a respectful cultural mediator by promoting inclusive and equitable encounters, ensuring that all parties’ beliefs are represented, and intervening as needed when the interpreter observes a cultural misunderstanding.