

# **The Code of Ethics for Professional Medical Interpreters**

## **Preface**

Professional medical interpreters (PMIs), “Iryo Tsu-yaku-shi” in Japanese, are professionals who support communication so all people can have access to needed care breaking the language and culture barriers with the mission to help patients and medical professionals understand each other and building the trustworthy relationships necessary to promote health wellness. To this end, professional medical interpreters offer their skills, knowledge, and experience. The code of ethics was established so that PMIs are socially recognized as professional on wide sphere, and they perform meaningful assignments. The code of ethics was established so that PMIs are socially recognized as professionals on wide sphere, and perform meaningful assignments.

## **Code Tenets**

### **1. Confidentiality**

PMIs do not disclose assignment-related information about patients and medical professionals to outsiders.

### **2. Accuracy**

PMIs interpret faithfully the meaning of the conversations between patients and medical professionals, and do their best to establish good communication considering differences in society, culture, customs, and religion.

### **3. Impartiality**

PMIs interpret impartially to all. Professional medical interpreters acknowledge their position to better understand context and issues of conversation between patients and medical professionals, and refrain from using position to gain favors from either party.

#### **4. Awareness and handling of own skills in executing the assignments.**

PMIs are aware of the limits of their skills, and take appropriate measures, and/or reject assignments when unable to be neutral or encounter assignments beyond their skills.

#### **5. Continuing professional development**

PMIs are committed to professional development to perform assignments.

#### **6. Improvement of medical interpreting environment, and collaboration with other professionals**

PMIs strive to make medical professionals and society recognize their role. They strive to improve interpreting environments so that communication in medical settings goes smoothly. In addition, they strive to understand the role of medical professionals and other professionals, and collaborate with them.

#### **7. Advocacy of rights**

Professional medical interpreters respect the dignity and rights of all people to live a healthy cultural life and to respect patients' independence in pursuing it.

#### **8. Professional medical interpreters' self-control**

PMIs strive to protect their own privacy, and keep and promote their own mental and physical health.

#### **9. Societal contribution as professionals**

PMIs prioritize the public interest and use their skills in all areas to improve society.

(Established at the 4<sup>th</sup> JAMI's General Conference at Nagasaki, Japan, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

NOTE :

The above was translated not literally in an effort to sound natural to English native speakers.