

About the Tsukuba International Association



The Tsukuba International Association (TIA) was founded in March 2007 for the purpose of promoting international exchange between foreign and local residents and to support foreign residents with their daily life. Starting in 2009, TIA began dispatching volunteer Medical Interpreters to assist in communicating at medical institutions. We dispatched medical interpreters over 150 times in the 6 years between 2010 and 2015, and another 150+ times in the 3 years between 2016 and 2018. We have thus catered to the growing need for interpreters in the medical field, a need which has been growing yearly.

To Medical Providers

Have you ever had difficulties diagnosing a patient due to language barriers? At TIA, we dispatch volunteer Medical Interpreters to medical institutions under the Medical Interpreters Dispatch Contract. If you need an interpreter urgently but don't have a contract, we can still send a medical interpreter if you agree to enter into a contract afterwards so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tsukuba International Association (Map)



Tsukuba International Association

Medical Interpreters: Inquiries

Address : 1-10-1 Azuma, Tsukuba, Ibaraki.

Tsukuba Innovation Plaza

TEL : 029-869-7675

FAX : 029-852-5513

E-mail : info@inter.or.jp

URL : <http://www.inter.or.jp/>

We send Medical Interpreters!

Will people who can speak English come to help me at the hospital?



It would be great to receive information about treatment, surgery, etc. in my own language.



つくば市国際交流協会

TSUKUBA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

What is the Volunteer Medical Interpreting Service?

At the Tsukuba International Association (TIA), we send out volunteer Medical Interpreters to medical institutions under contract to help non-Japanese-speaking patients receive adequate medical care.

How to Get a Medical Interpreter

6. End

In the case of a follow-up appointment, go to "2. Hospital Decides"

1. Patient Requests an Interpreter

Patient requests for an interpreter at the hospital. Please place a request at least 5 business days prior to the date you would like the service.



In the case of a follow-up appointment

5. Interpreter is Dispatched to Hospital

A Medical Interpreter will be dispatched to the designated institution to interpret. Please note that Medical Interpreters are sent as needed and are not present at the institution at all times. If you need to cancel your appointment, please contact the medical institution as soon as possible so the interpreter can be notified.



2. Hospital Decides

The doctor or hospital staff decides whether to use the Medical Interpreting Service.



4. TIA looks for a Medical Interpreter

TIA will find a Medical Interpreter who is available for the requested date. All interpreters have been screened through a Medical Interpreters Exam and are trained in.



3. Hospital Applies for Interpreting Service

The hospital staff contacts TIA and applies for a Medical Interpreter. The application should be made at least 5 days prior to the day of interpretation.



- Where Service is Available: Medical institutions that have a Medical Interpreters Dispatch Contract with TIA.
(As of now, April 1, 2019, University of Tsukuba Hospital, Tsukuba Medical Center and Ichihara Hospital of the Ichihara Medical Group)
- Range of Interpreting: hospital check-in, doctor consultation, tests, diagnosis, surgery, medical prescription, consent form, and doctor's certificate, among others.
- Languages Offered: Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, English
- Fee: Varies depending on the institution
(As of now, April 1, 2019, the University of Tsukuba Hospital asks the patient to cover a part of the costs (i.e. Not Free))
- To Request an Interpreter: Ask the medical staff for an interpreter.
- Please Note: Two interpreters may be sent for training purposes.
If there are no interpreters available for the requested date, TIA may not be able to provide the service.
A TIA staff may accompany the interpreter.
TIA will update its website as more medical institutions make this interpreting service available.