Waco Family Medicine
Medical Interpretation Test (MIT) by ALTA
Duration: ~30 minutes

IMPORTANT: don't be nervous! This test is a pre-test only. Your score does not affect your status in the project. The pre-test prepares you for the interpretation course and your assessment after the course is completed.

The Medical Interpretation Test developed and administered by ALTA Language Services encompasses all the important skills one must use in an interpreting situation. It is a 30-minute test that requires you to interpret from English to Spanish, and from Spanish to English. The test deals with different types of speech, a variety of medical terminology, and dialogue units of different lengths. You must be able to deal with idioms and phrases and must be able to handle both formal and conversational speech.

The interpretation test is given over the phone, with two prerecorded participants that will play the role of the doctor and the patient (one for each language). You will provide these instructions at the start of the test:

- You are allowed to take notes on paper during the test, but you are requested to start interpreting as soon as the evaluator stops speaking.
- You are not allowed to use any electronic device (tablet, computer, smartphone) to take notes or look for words.
- Please do not begin interpreting the given unit of dialogue until the character is finished speaking.
- You may make 2 requests for repetition over the course of the test by pressing the pound key (#). If, after these 2 repetitions, you are unable to interpret a given unit of dialogue, the call will simply move on to the next portion of the test.
- You will have 40 seconds to respond to each question. Make sure to not take long pauses when speaking because the test will think you finished and will submit your response.
- The test is open 24/7. You can take it at any time, including after work hours. Coordinate with your supervisor the best time to complete the test.

Sample Dialogue

		Dialogue	Interpretation
1	Doctor	Hello, Juliana. How are you feeling today?	Hola, Juliana. ¿Cómo se siente hoy?
	Patient	Hola, doctor. He estado mejor. Llevo dos semanas con problemas de los senos paranasales.	Hi, doctor. I've been better. I've had sinus problems for two weeks.
2	Doctor	I'm sorry to hear that. Can you tell me more about your symptoms?	Cuánto lo siento. ¿Puede decirme más acerca de sus síntomas?
	Patient	Por supuesto. La congestión va y viene a lo largo del día. A veces me despierto sangrando por la nariz. He tenido unos dolores de cabeza terribles.	Sure. I have congestion on and off throughout the day. Sometimes I wake up with a bloody nose. And I've been getting terrible headaches.
3	Doctor	How often do you experience headaches?	¿Con qué frecuencia ha estado experimentado dolores de cabeza?
	Patient	Por lo menos una vez al día. A veces el dolor se centra en el área de los senos paranasales, y entonces me duele toda la cara. Eso realmente está afectando mi capacidad para trabajar.	At least once a day. Sometimes the headache is focused around my sinus area, and then my whole face hurts. It's really affecting my ability to work.
4	Doctor	That sounds miserable, Juliana. Have you been taking any over-the-counter medication to treat the congestion or the headaches?	Eso suena terrible, Juliana. ¿Ha tomado algún medicamento sin receta medica para tratar la congestión o los dolores de cabeza?
	Patient	Bueno, es que eso es parte del problema. Estaba usando un descongestionante nasal de venta libre, pero en el envase decía que no lo usara más de cinco días. Así que tuve que dejarlo.	Well, that's part of the problem. I was taking an over-the-counter nasal decongestant, but the package said not to use it for more than five days. So, I had to stop.
5	Doctor	Yes, most of the decongestants come with that warning. They can worsen congestion if used too long.	Sí, la mayoría de los descongestionantes incluyen esa advertencia. La congestión puede empeorar si se usan por demasiado tiempo.
	Patient	Exacto. Así que ahora tomo ibuprofeno para los dolores de cabeza, pero sigo teniendo dificultades para acabar el día de trabajo.	Right. So now I just use ibuprofen for the headaches, but I still have a hard time getting through the work day.
6	Doctor	It sounds like you're dealing with a sinus infection. I'll check your nose and throat to be sure. Would you be open to taking a prescription antibiotic for 7 days?	Me parece que está lidiando con una infección sinusal. Voy a revisarle la nariz y la garganta para estar seguros. ¿Estaría dispuesta tomar una receta de antibióticos por 7 días?
	Patient	No tengo ningún problema. Tomaré cualquier cosa que me haga volver a la normalidad.	I have no problem with that. I'll take anything that'll get me back to normal.

Exam Tips
- The test is not progressive – that is, it does not start off at a low level of language and become progressively harder. After a short warm-up involving common greetings, difficult vocabulary and structures and basic vocabulary and structures can occur within the same units of dialogue. The dialogues are written to replicate authentic conversation.
- The longest dialogue units are between 35 and 50 words. These occur several times throughout the test. There are also several units that are very brief – i.e., a single phrase or short sentence.
- The vocabulary in the test is varied. While there are a number of words and phrases related to medical terminology, there are also general idioms and instances of slang that would occur in conversational dialogue.

- The candidate is expected to be able to adjust his or her register – that is, to be able to switch from more formal to less formal speech, and vice versa. This skill is tested a handful of times during the test, with various phrases and grammatical structures that are of a higher or lower register than the surrounding dialogue.
- You will be scored in two categories: accuracy and fluidity. Your overall score takes your score in both categories into account.
- You will need an access code to enter the exam. You will receive this code in an email from ALTA.