## COMMON ELEMENTS OF A MEDICAL INTERVIEW

Taking a patient’s medical history is an important first step in treating him/her. Each medical provider has their own style and technique, but many interviews will include the common phrases listed below. It is important for the interpreter to be familiar with common topics and questions that are likely to come up during a standard medical interview. Being familiar with common phrases will allow you to interpret them quickly and accurately.

Do you know how to interpret the following common phrases?

Please tell me your first and last name.

How old are you?

What do you do for a living?

Is there much physical activity associated with your work?

How can I help you today?

What brings you in to see me today?

When did your symptoms start?

Have you taken any kind of medicine for your symptoms?

What kind of medicine did you take and how much have you taken?

Did the medicine help?

Is there anything that makes your symptoms worse?

Is there anything that makes your symptoms better?

Do you feel any pain?

Can you show me where the pain is located?

Can you describe the pain for me?

Is it stabbing or burning?

Is it constant or intermittent?

Is it sharp or dull?

On a scale of one to ten, how would you rank the pain?

Does the pain radiate to any other part of your body?

Do you have any current health problems, such as diabetes or high blood pressure?

How long have you had this condition?

Are you seeing a doctor for this condition?

Are you taking any medications for this condition?

Can you tell me the name of the medication?

Do you know what doses you take?

How often do you take this medication?

Do your parents have any health problems? How old are they.

Do you have any brothers or sisters? How old are they? Do they have any health problems?

Is there a history of (high blood pressure, cancer, asthma, diabetes …etc.) in your family?

Are you taking any prescription medications?

Do you use any alternative treatments or remedies for any health problems?

Are you taking any over-the-counter (OTC) medicines?

Do you smoke?

How much do you smoke?

How old were you when you started smoking?

Do you drink alcohol?

About how many drinks do you consume per week?

Do you have any allergies to food or medications?

Is your cough worse in the morning, in the evening or at night?

Do you have any difficulty breathing?

ADD YOUR OWN TERMS:

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