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**Are You Proud to Be Certified? We're Proud to be Accredited!**

You may have heard the latest buzz around “accreditation” of certification programs, but what does it all mean? Just as healthcare interpreters work hard to get credentialed as “certified healthcare interpreters,” certification programs can also “get certified!” The process is called “accreditation” and, today, it is administered by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accreditation arm of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). **Accreditation is the process by which a credentialing or educational program is evaluated against defined standards by a third party and is awarded recognition when found in compliance with these standards.** It's *more* than just a voluntary membership to an

**#AddCCHI**



**If you have another certification, you can earn the following credentials at a discounted rate:**  
**CoreCHI™ for \$150**  
**CHI™ for \$300**

association. Accreditation (and renewal of accreditation) involves a rigorous process that ensures the quality of examinations and certification offered by organizations like CCHI. In fact, [NCCA accredited programs](#) certify individuals in a wide range of professions and occupations, including nurses, pharmacists, counselors, EMTs, HR professionals, defense security specialists, and more. CCHI is proud to represent the healthcare interpreter profession as equal among other allied health professions.

As a 501(c)6 certifying body, CCHI has always recognized its obligation to follow not only the standards and best practices of the healthcare interpreting profession but also of the testing industry.

Today, CCHI is proud to offer the *only* nationally accredited certifications in the interpreting industry. NCCA's accreditation validates all aspects of CCHI's certification programs and CCHI as a certifying body:

- solid governance and operations, which demonstrate full autonomy and independence of any undue influence from any other body;
- financial and resource stability;
- continued quality improvement;
- security and confidentiality;
- transparency and fairness to the profession and public.

As our Founding Chair Mara Youdelman, J.D., put it in 2012, when we became the *first* NCCA-accredited program in the interpreting industry, "Our NCCA accreditation journey began on the day CCHI was launched, July 15, 2009, because we were 100 percent committed to creating the best, most valid, most credible professional certification for healthcare interpreters, which directly benefits patient safety, healthcare providers, and interpreters who work in more than 139 languages."

## Professional engagement is now part of CCHI's certification renewal



CCHI recognizes that one of the important tasks of a certified healthcare interpreter is to pursue professional growth and

Offer valid until 12/31/2018.

For details, [click here](#).

## Interpreter Education News

### CHI™ Practice Exam



Our CHI™-Arabic Practice Exam is available at CCHI's online training resources portal at <http://cchiinterpreters.org>. The Spanish and Mandarin practice exams will be ready shortly.

The practice exam is meant to acquaint candidates who plan to take the CHI™-Arabic oral performance exam with the exam's structure and difficulty level. This is a self-assessment tool, and no review or scoring is provided by CCHI. It is not required to take this practice exam before taking the actual exam.

You may access this practice exam at any time after you create an account on this [portal](#). After logging in, click on the title of the practice exam to enroll, and enter this enrollment key: "**Study4u**" (without the quotation marks).

Please create only 1 account at this site, if you have troubles login in, contact us at [info@cchicertification.org](mailto:info@cchicertification.org).

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To see the info about CCHI's past or upcoming webinars:

<http://www.cchicertification.org/61-stay-informed/cchi-webinars/93-cchi-webinars>.

development on an ongoing basis. This is achieved not only by completing continuing education programs but also through involvement in professional organizations, research, and professional publications. **CCHI encourages our certificants to be actively engaged in the profession.** To this effect, as of **January 30, 2018, CCHI certificants are allowed, as an option, to submit non-instructional continuing education (CE) equal to up to 4 hours (points) per each two-year cycle** towards their certification renewal requirements.

**Non-instructional CE activities** are defined as “activities that support the healthcare interpreting profession through volunteerism, leadership and research.”

The following categories of non-instructional activities are accepted as CE for CCHI certification renewal:

**1) Professional Engagement:**

- a) Membership in a professional organization
- b) Volunteering related to healthcare interpreting

**2) Leadership and Recognition:**

- a) Serving on the volunteer Board of a professional organization of healthcare interpreters or with healthcare interpreters as a significant segment of membership
- b) Receiving a professional award related to healthcare interpreting

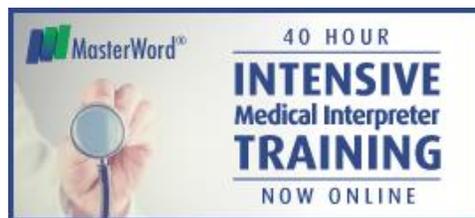
**3) Research and Publications** related to the healthcare interpreting profession.

For details about the updated policy, see <https://goo.gl/iYitjv>.

The new CE criteria will be also explained at the **free informational webinar “What's new for Certified HC Interpreters in 2018?” on February 7, 2018 at 9 pm EST/8 pm CST/ 6 pm PST. To register, [click here](#).**

**#GetEngaged**

**Advertisement**



**Upcoming 2018 Conferences**

A few of the regional conferences you will want to be sure and register for and attend, when they come your way!

- [CHIA 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) – **March 2-3, Irvine (CA)**; 22 sessions accredited by CEAP/CCHI; meet us at our table!
- [U of Michigan Interpreter Services](#) hold their 1<sup>st</sup> conference **on April 7-8, Ann Arbor (MI)**. CCHI Commissioners will hold a Certified Interpreter Oath ceremony.
- [5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Ramp Up the Conversation”](#) is held in two locations on **April 21 and 28 in Johnson Creek and La Crosse (WI)**. Each day is accredited for 6 CE hrs.
- [NETA 2018 Annual Conference](#) – **April 28, Boston (MA)**; meet CCHI’s Chair Margarita Bekker.

Visit our [Interpreting Industry Conferences](#) webpage for ongoing updates throughout the year!

**Interpreter Spotlight**



**Marc Ntunzwenimana,**  
CoreCHI™

**Marc Ntunzwenimana was awarded the “Discover Healthcare Interpreting” CoreCHI™ Scholarship in July of 2017,** and in December of 2017 he earned the CoreCHI™ credential.

He began interpreting for NGO’s in Burundi in 2007 and has continued interpreting since he came to the United States in 2011. His languages are **French, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Swahili,** and English.

Currently, he is an interpreter with Catholic Charities in Maine, and in addition to interpreting in healthcare settings, he also interprets in courts, immigration, schools, and other community settings.

The following are excerpts from a recent interview with a CCHI Commissioner:

**What inspired you to become an interpreter and why healthcare?**

*Because of the community. People lacked understanding and couldn't communicate with doctors as they should. Staff complained about difficulty working with some interpreters. I have training in my country, so I thought why not try this opportunity? I applied at Maine Medical Center but was told I needed to take classes first. That was eye opening. So, I registered, took classes, and was hired as an interpreter.*

**What would you tell someone who is considering becoming a healthcare interpreter?**

*You should take it seriously. It is not as easy as many may think. You are interpreting for people so that they can make decisions about their life. If you don't do well in your work as an interpreter, you might put people's life in danger or people might make decisions that they regret for the rest of their life.*

**What advice would you give someone who is preparing to take the certification exam?**

*Trust your gut. Give it a shot. Study to prepare for the test and overcome your fear. It is a good thing because it shows you how much you need to learn. Studying and taking interpreting classes can show us where we need to focus our attention. Interpreters are learners for their whole life.*

**What does earning the certification credential mean for you and your professional career?**

*It is validation that not only do I interpret, I have the knowledge to do so. It also shows how much I'm invested in the field of interpreting. It gives me pride that I was able to achieve this. Exams and tests are not easy for anyone; there is always some fear. I am amazed at how well I did. I am among the best interpreters.*

**CCHI Commissioners and staff congratulate Marc Ntunzwenimana on earning his CoreCHI™ credential** and for his continued dedication to the healthcare interpreting profession.

*(Our Spring 2018 Scholarship cycle will open in early April, stay tuned.)*

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## Winter CHI™ 2018 Testing

The Winter 2018 testing for CHI™ candidates is in full swing until **February 12, 2018**. Call (844) 704-1487 to schedule your exam now if you have the CHI™ Notice to Schedule.

You can **search for the test center locations for any of our exams from one page** – click [here](#) – thanks to our testing vendor PSI.

Oral performance CHI™ exams for Arabic, Mandarin and Spanish interpreters are available only 4 times a year (for specific dates in 2018 [click here](#) and scroll down to the middle of the page).



**The CoreCHI™ examination is available all year round!** You can schedule an exam at any time as soon as you receive your *Notice to Schedule* in the email. To search available sites, [click CCHI Core Certification Healthcare Interpreter Exam™ \(CoreCHI™\)](#) and then enter your zip code to find the CoreCHI™ sites closest to you.



Keep in mind that testing locations may change during the year; ask our representative (at 844-704-1487) about a location closest to you when you call to schedule. If you have any questions about the application process, scheduling or paying for any exam, please contact Malika Sadi-Goodman, our Director of Operations, at [CMSspecialist@cchicertification.org](mailto:CMSspecialist@cchicertification.org).



**If you have passed your CoreCHI™ exam, [click here](#) to log into your CCHI profile and take the next steps to schedule your CHI™ exam during the upcoming testing window.**

Remember, you have **6 months** from the date when your application is approved, to take the CoreCHI™ exam. You have **12 months** to take the CHI™ exam after you pass the CoreCHI™.

You will need to repeat the process if you miss these deadlines.

***We wish you the best of luck on your exam!***

*CCHI is leading the national dialogue on healthcare interpreter certification.*

The talents and expertise of many interpreters, trainers and interpreter coordinators are critical to ensuring we get it right, and we invite everyone to visit the [CCHI website](#) regularly for the latest updates.

If you would like to contribute to our Newsletter, please contact us at [news@CCHICertification.org](mailto:news@CCHICertification.org) by the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

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