

EtoE Study Goal

Determine if cognitive interpreting skills can be evaluated via a performance test in a *monolingual* format

so that a universal performance exam could be created to certify interpreters of languages of lower incidence (limited diffusion)

since developing and maintaining a *bilingual* performance certification exam in these languages is not feasible.

Premise

- Interpreters of any language pair combination differ from bilingual individuals who are *not* interpreters in their ability to accurately covert meaning from one language into another.
- This ability depends on cognitive interpreting skills that involve language comprehension and engagement.
- Healthcare interpreters in the U.S. share one language – English; it may be possible to measure these cognitive interpreting skills via an English only, aka English-to-English (ETOE™), exam.
- Combining a candidate’s results from a language proficiency test in a non-English language and the ETOE™ exam will provide a good measure of the candidate’s interpreting abilities that would allow for evidence-based employment decision-making.

EtoE Study Design

1. ETOE™ Exam

Following the usual certification test development processes and the National Task Force recommendations, CCHI developed the ETOE™ interpreter performance exam that included 9 different activities of engagement with the English language specific to healthcare settings in various ways. See the table on the right for details.

Item Order	Item Type	# of items (33)	Weight (100%)
1	Reading Comprehension	1	10%
2	Shadowing	1	12.5%
3	Finish the Sentence	5	8%
4	Restate the Message	8	12.5%
5	Listening Comprehension	1	15%
6	Memory	8	15%
7	Equivalence	3	10%
8	Medical Concepts	3	9%
9	Fill-in-the-Blank	3	8%

2. The EtoE Study Process

- CCHI recruited 249 candidates – interpreters of Arabic, Mandarin, and Spanish – who qualified to sit for the bilingual CHI™ performance exams in these languages and completed an extensive questionnaire about their training and interpreting experience.
- Candidates took on the same day the certification exam (a CHI™ exam in their language) and then the ETOE™ exam.
- Results from these two exams were compared via psychometric analyses and statistical modeling.

Key Findings

1. **The score on the ETOE™ exam has a statistically significant correlation to passing or failing a bilingual CHI™ exam.** The correlation is higher for candidates whose native language is not English (Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.62, i.e., moderate to strong correlation). Majority of interpreters of languages of lower instance (of limited diffusion) are not native English speakers, i.e., they are the intended audience of the ETOE™ exam.
2. **The score on the ETOE™ exam is a viable predictor of whether the candidate will pass or fail a bilingual CHI™ exam.** (The Logistic Regression modeling shows an increase of odds of passing a CHI™ exam by a factor of 2.18 for every point increase in the ETOE™ score.)
3. **A model of a monolingual performance exam, based on confirmatory factor analyses, will include the following five item types:** *Memory Capacity, Restate the Meaning, Equivalence of Meaning, Shadowing, and Listening Comprehension.*
4. **The highest correlations to the bilingual CHI™ exam were displayed by these three item types:** *Memory Capacity, Restate the Meaning, and Equivalence of Meaning.*
5. **The weakest item performance (based on analyses) was displayed by these item types:** *Medical Concepts (multiple-choice), Reading Comprehension, Fill-in-the-Blank, and Finish the Sentence.*

ETOE-exam-based Credential Action Plan

CCHI plans to create a new credential for interpreters of languages for which a bilingual CHI™ performance exam does not exist, i.e., languages of low instance (limited diffusion).

The new credential will be granted based on:

- an updated, more robust language proficiency requirement in the Language Other Than English
- passing the CoreCHI™ written knowledge exam
- passing the ETOE™ performance exam (an exam that takes into account the EtoE Study results)

CCHI plans to roll out the new credential in 2023 and continue monitoring the new ETOE™ exam performance, adjusting the testing parameters as needed based on further psychometric analyses.

Read the full report at [https://cchicertification.org/uploads/CCHI ETOE Study Report May2021.pdf](https://cchicertification.org/uploads/CCHI_ETOE_Study_Report_May2021.pdf).