



# Emerging Professions Review

Medical Interpreters  
Polysomnographers  
Surgical Assistants  
Surgical Technologists



## Medical Interpreters

Medical interpreters provide language services to health care patients with limited English proficiency. Medical interpreters help patients to communicate with doctors, nurses, and other medical staff. . . . Medical interpreters need a strong grasp of medical and colloquial terminology in both languages, along with cultural sensitivity regarding how the patient receives the information. They must remain detached but aware of the patient's feelings and pain.

–Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Healthcare Setting
- Medical Terminology in both Languages
- Cultural Awareness
  - US Healthcare System
  - LEP patient's Culture of Origin
- Build professional and sympathetic relationships



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## Central Issues

- 1964 Civil Rights Act
  - Forbids Reduction/Impairment of Services due to National Origin
- Documented Negative Outcomes from Untrained Interpreters
- International/national certifications are quickly becoming available



## Polysomnographers

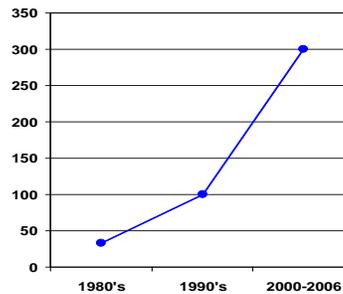
- Polysomnogram
  - Brain Waves
  - Heart Rate
  - Oxygen Saturation
  - Eye Movement
  - Airflow
- Sleep Clinics
- Scored by Polysomnographer
- Interpreted by licensed Practitioner
- Over 80 Sleep Disorders
  - 94% Apnea (breathing) related diagnosis at sleep clinics
- RT Related Procedures
  - Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
  - Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure
  - Low-flow oxygen
  - Capnography
  - Oximetry



## Polysomnography

- Multiple Disciplines
  - Electroneurodiagnostics
  - Cardiology
  - Respiratory Therapy
  - Psychology
- Rapidly Growing Field

Diplomates of Sleep Medicine  
Average Annual Certifications



## Operating Room Team

Role	Who Performs	Tasks
Sterile		
Surgeon	Surgeon, Dentist, Podiatrist	Perform surgery, manage care
First Assistant	Surgeon, Physician, PA, Resident, RNFA, Surgical Assistant	Provide exposure, control bleeding, close wounds, apply dressing
Scrub	Surgical Technologist, RN, LPN	Maintain sterile field, hand and count instruments, prepare supplies
Non-sterile		
Anesthesia Provider	Anesthesiologist, RN, Dentist, Physician, PA	Provide and maintain anesthesia, maintain vitals
Circulator	RN or Surgical Technologist	Patient advocate, patient comfort, manage team members, maintain sterile field, emergency assistance
Perianesthesia	RN, Surgical Technologist	Pre- and postoperative patient assessment and preparation



## Surgical Technologist

- Scrub Role
    - Prepare OR
    - Pass/Count Instruments
    - Maintain Sterile Field
    - May hold retractors
  - Circulator Role
    - Usually Performed by RNs
    - Manage Surgical Team
    - Maintain Sterile Field
    - Pre-surgical Assessment
    - Patient Advocate
  - CAAHEP Recognized Programs
  - Associates, Diploma or Certificate
  - Decreasingly, OTJ Training
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## Surgical Assistants

- First Assistant Role
    - Closure at all levels
    - Provide Exposure
    - Tie off / cauterize vessels
    - Harvest, bifurcate veins
    - Assist in all types of surgery.
  - Credentials Vary
    - Four Certification Boards
    - Require Surgical Tech experience
    - Various eligibility routes
  - CAAHEP Programs
    - Certificate Programs
    - 250 lecture/lab hours
    - At least 120 cases
  - Non-CAAHEP Programs
    - Enhanced OTJ training
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