BRAZILIAN CULTURE

The Federal Republic of Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest in the world. It is the only Portuguese speaking country in the Americas. Brazilian culture is extremely diverse. It is a blend of influences from aboriginal Indians, Portugal, Africa, and Europe. Class and social status are major features of Brazilian society. Many Brazilians sense of social identity is based on these concepts. Brazil is predominantly Roman Catholic, having the largest Catholic population in the world.

Communication Style  When communicating, Brazilians are often very detail oriented. They are comfortable with verbal disagreements, although these would likely not occur between younger and older persons. It is not considered polite to verbally disagree with a health care provider, so clinicians should not assume patients are in complete agreement. A provider would do well to have patients expound on feelings about recommended treatment options.

Health and Wellness  Health and wellness are considered to be an absence of pain, suffering, or disease. Many Brazilians are more likely to seek medical care for treatment of sickness rather than preventative care. Many believe that illnesses may be a matter of divine intervention or fate. In Brazilian culture, those who are suffering from illness are not expected to make decisions about their own health issues. These decisions will often be left to the family. A variety of herbal baths, teas, special prayers and blessings are used by many as remedies for ailments.

Language  Almost 100 percent of Brazilians speak Portuguese. However, this is not the same as the Portuguese spoken in Portugal. The two languages have more differences than English spoken in the United States and that spoken in the United Kingdom. While Portuguese has similarities to Spanish, Spanish-language interpreters should not be used to interpret for Portuguese-speaking patients. There are numerous differences between the two languages that could result in misunderstanding and significant patient harm.

Source:http://libraryguides.umassmed.edu

HOW MUCH DO YOU RECALL?

Brazil ranks __ in size of all countries in the world?

A. FIRST  B. FIFTH  C. FIFTEENTH

The first team member to respond with the correct answer will be recognized in a future edition of the Cultural Spotlight newsletter and entered in a drawing at the end of the 2018 fiscal year.

Email answers to interpreterservices@musc.edu

September/October Last Winner:
Did You Know....??

 Interpreter vs. Translator

Interpreters and translators perform a similar task, but in different settings. Interpreters convert any spoken material, usually between two or more persons, from one language (source) to a different language (target). Translators convert written material from one language to different one. Both involve converting language from source to target, but each service requires a specific skill set and thought process. Interpreters utilize excellent listening and speaking skills, whereas translators depend on reading and writing skills.

MUSC Health employs a team of highly trained medical interpreters for face-to-face encounters with both Spanish-speaking and Deaf/hard of hearing patients. Telephonic and video remote interpretation services are also available in a variety of languages 24/7/365. English to Spanish document translation is also provided by our in-house team for a variety of basic documents.

MEET THE MEDICAL INTERPRETATION TEAM

Lina Norena

How long have you been an interpreter at MUSC Health? I have worked as an interpreter here for 7 years.

What do you enjoy about interpreting? I started in the medical field because I love helping people. Interpreting is a great way to provide the assistance our patients need.

What is your favorite thing to do for fun? I enjoy spending time with my 3 year old son and traveling to countries around the world.

HOW TO ACCESS INTERPRETATION SERVICES AT MUSC

PATIENTS WHO SPEAK SPANISH
- In-person medical interpretation, 24/7/365
- Use Service-Hub to request an interpreter. (MUHA Intranet)
- Conference calls – extension 2-4595
- Telephonic Interpretation—24/7/365

ALL SPOKEN LANGUAGES -Telephonic Interpretation Services
- Available 24/7/365, over 200 languages
- Call 1-855-305-0998
- Request language, including any dialects. Can schedule a time for a phone interpreter for uncommon dialects.

PATIENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING
- In-house Medical Interpretation is Available Mondays through Fridays, 8:00 am–5:00pm
- In-Person Interpretation (After-Hours/Weekends)- Contact Charleston Interpreting Services at 678-446-7780
- Video Remote Interpretation- (ASL), Available 24/7/365 – Equipment is stored in Security Offices at ART and Main Hospital

ALWAYS DOCUMENT THAT INTERPRETATION SERVICES WAS USED. IF IT ISN'T DOCUMENTED, IT WASN'T DONE!!!

To schedule a department training or provide compliments/complaints about Interpretation Services, please contact Antwan Walters, Coordinator, Interpretation Services at waltea@musc.edu (2-5078) or Stephanie Taylor, Director, Diversity & Inclusion at taylorst@musc.edu or (2-2341).