

CEUs MADE SIMPLE

Understanding the process and reasons behind them

The IMIA (International Medical Interpreters Association) is the organization that reviews and approves CEUs for NBCMI (National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters). Once they receive an application from an institution, conference or event, they begin the review process to ensure that the workshop meets the educational requirements to be awarded a CEU. Without an application, the IMIA cannot approve CEUs, so always make sure that the institution, conference and event you are attending has applied for them.

The IMIA recently made changes to their CEU process and REDUCED their fees for conferences/events and institutions applying. Each CEU awarded to workshops is good for TWO years, making the fees very cost effective. Check out this [link](#) to read more. In fact, feel free to share this information with those organizations you seek CEUs from.

In January of 2018, NBCMI no longer automatically accepted CEUs from other organizations such as ATA, RID or CCHI. The reason this change was made was to ensure that our high standards were met. We wanted our CMIs to ONLY take workshops related to medical, as this is a medical certification. Other organizations approve CEUs for workshops that are not related to medical.

To learn more please read the Q&A below:

Q: What is the benefit of Continuing Education?

Healthcare, medicine, and nursing are constantly changing; we are experiencing a new wave of innovation, game-changing new technologies and treatments, transforming the practice of medicine, dramatically altering the patient experience, and creating conditions for even more breakthroughs. With all these happenings we as professional medical interpreters need to recognize that continuing education is the ride we must take to keep growing and evolving accordingly.

Q: Why do I need CEUs?

Any organization that issues a credential of certification has regulations such as recertification to maintain said credential. To achieve this, the credentialing body requires continuing education units. A variety of professions including translators, conference interpreters, sign language interpreters and court interpreters, as well as professionals in the health care system must adhere to the requirements for recertification. This procedure ensures that these professionals continue to strengthen the skills and expand the knowledge required for their field.

Since 2010, the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters has helped hundreds of interpreters further their careers through its excellent credentialing program. The National Board requires recertification every 5 years, to achieve this, CEUs are awarded for trainings directly related to medical interpretation to ensure CMIs are maintaining and developing their competency for medical interpretation.

Q: What constitutes one CEU?

To get recertified with the National Board the CMI must complete 3 CEUs equivalent to 30 contact hours.

A Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is a recognized unit of measurement for educational activities that meet established criteria for increasing knowledge and competency. One CEU is equal to ten (10) hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience.

Q: Which trainings and workshops are approved to offer CEUs for certified medical interpreters?

The National Board accepts CEUs granted by the IMIA (IMIA/NBCMI CEUs). This ensures that these workshops, conferences, and events are directly related to medical interpreting knowledge and skills enhancement and go beyond basic skills or training.

To get credit for workshops or presentations attended at a conference/forum, you will need to submit BOTH a conference/forum attendance certificate AND a completed attendance sheet. Keep in mind that participants will only receive credit for the educational activity attended, regardless of the number of IMIA/NBCMI CEUs granted for the entire event.

The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) offers the **Learning Series**, an excellent set of monthly webinars to help individuals acquire or improve skills in medical interpreting and obtain CEUs. These webinars are the easiest, and most cost-effective way of obtaining the 3.0 CEU units needed for re-certification (due every 5 years), and an excellent way of staying on top of new trends, ethical issues, standards of practice, and legal matters affecting our profession, and networking with other CMIs around the world.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the IMIA Education Registry to search among hundreds of approved IMIA/NBCMI Continued Education courses.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the IMIA Learning Series site for more information on approved IMIA/NBCMI CEU webinars offered by the IMIA.

Visit the NBCMI [Upcoming Events](#) section under Quick Links to find CEU opportunities.