

ARE YOU COMPLIANT WITH SECTION 1557 OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT?

Have you ever required a patient's family member to interpret for you?
Have you asked a bilingual staff member to assist you because they speak the same language as your patient?

If you've answered "yes" to either of these questions, you may be violating Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

WHAT IS SECTION 1557 OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT?

As of July 18, 2016, healthcare providers are now mandated to comply with Section 1557, the nondiscrimination provision of the ACA, which broadly prohibits discrimination in healthcare or health coverage on the basis of race, "color", national origin, immigration status and English language proficiency. It also requires health care providers to provide patients access to qualified interpreters.

Section 1557:

- Prohibits the use of minor children to serve as interpreters except in emergency situations when a qualified interpreter is not available.
- Limits the use of adult family members, friends and bilingual or multilingual staff as medical interpreters when certain criteria are not met.
- Makes it illegal to require an individual with limited English proficiency to provide his or her own interpreter during medical encounters.

A Qualified Interpreter:

- Adheres to generally accepted interpreter ethics principles, including client confidentiality.
- Demonstrates proficiency in speaking and understanding both spoken English and at least one other spoken language.
- Is able to interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressly, to and from such language(s) and English, using any necessary specialized vocabulary and phraseology.



GET ACCESS TO AKORBI'S CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS & STAY COMPLIANT.

Certified interpreters are easily accessible to meet your limited English proficient patients, regardless of language spoken, through Akorbi's easy-to-use ADAPT Platform.

Akorbi's Certified Interpreters:

- Have a minimum of three years of professional interpretation experience, in addition to formal training.
- Are rigorously screened through oral and written tests.
- Attend an intensive induction program that includes Code of Ethics requirements and skills required to effectively work as a telephonic and video interpreter.
- Undergo extensive training to fully understand the language requirements of medical settings.
- Perform monthly Office of the Inspector General (OIG)/System Award Management (SAM)/State checks.
- Must complete annual compliance training, which includes Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), cultural competency, network and information security standard operating procedures (SOP) and Akorbi's Code of Ethics to refresh their basic skills and build their knowledge of the medical industry.
- Work via video to receive training on the Video Remote Interpretation (VRI) system, as well as the specific requirements necessary to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate communication via video.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SECTION 1557 OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REQUIREMENTS AND HOW AKORBI CAN HELP YOU STAY COMPLIANT.

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