



“Introduction to SEMI Services”

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SEMI(Sapporo English Medical Interpreters’ Group)

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“SEMI Sapporo English Medical Interpreters Group: Supporting International Students and the International Community with Their Medical Needs” (in Japanese)

Web Magazine Ryuugaku Koryu (留学交流), Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

<http://www.jasso.go.jp/sp/ryugaku/related/kouryu/2015/12.html>

It is with sad heart that this email is now officially also a good-bye to you, Megumi and Shihoko, but also to Saori-san, and the entire SEMI group. Your group provides such great value to foreigners like me, and your kindness and patience is second to none. I am so happy that I have met so many of you (either in clinics, or during my presentation) and my encounters with you, even in the clinics, will stand out as a highlight of my 4 month stay in Sapporo. I will miss you and always remember this as a very good time. —From W.C.

From “Testimonials”, SEMI website

What is SEMI? Who are SEMI Members?

SEMI, Sapporo English Medical Interpreters' Group was established in April 2009 with 13 female members. Currently we have 27 members (1 male, 26 females): Housewives, English teachers, Conference Interpreters, Dentists, Pharmacists, Lab Technician, Medical Translators, Licensed Tour Guides, Doctor etc. and one external advisor (Registered Nurse in the US)

(Average TOEIC score of Independent SEMI medical interpreters: 933/990)

We hold weekly 3-hour meetings: Improving English skills, Medical Knowledge, Interpretation, Medical Interpreters' Code of Ethics

We provide our volunteer interpreting services to international citizens in the Sapporo area when they need medical attention. Our service is free of charge, but we welcome any type of donation to cover our transportation fees etc. We charge to the travelers and issue the receipt if needed so they can claim the interpretation fee to their insurance company.

How Can I Use SEMI Services?

Patients send us e-mails to semisapporo@gmail.com in advance for the request. Five experienced SEMI members act as coordinators in turn and assign an interpreter to each request. For first time patients, we send two documents: Request Form and "About US" (explanation of SEMI).

Who can join SEMI?

SEMI interpreters should:

- be available during daytime on weekdays when most patients visit hospitals
- be fluent in English with qualifications such as Eiken Grade1 or 900 or more in TOEIC
- understand the importance of interpreting services to international patients
- work as a volunteer in most cases
- contribute to SEMI, not only studying medical English for themselves

Cooperation with the Public Sector

(1) Sapporo International Communication Plaza

- Co-host the Seminar: "Let's Learn about the Childcare Services and Child Health Care

and Enjoy Raising Your Children in Sapporo!” (Since January 2011)

This seminar created an opportunity to translate various MCH (Maternal and Child Health) information in English

<http://plaza-sapporo.or.jp/files/babyontheway.pdf>

- SICP supports SEMI as a part of its multicultural project

http://plaza-sapporo.or.jp/citizen_j/tabunka/medicalenglish.html (in Japanese)

- English Seminar for Healthcare Providers (beginner’s level) (June 2017)

(2) Sapporo City Public Office, Health Center in each ward

- Translation of Birth Reports and Questionnaires for the Vaccination
- Language assistance for the Regional Childcare Support Program such as Home visits for the first time mothers and newborn babies

Cooperation with Hokkaido University

90% of our clients are international students, researchers and their families at Hokkaido University so the university supports SEMI, paying us interpretation fees.

Cooperation with Hospitals

If employed by the hospital, we are protected as employees in case any problems arise.

(1) Kin-ikyō Sapporo Hospital: One of the designated facility for “Nyuin Josan Seido” (Childbirth Assistance Program) with many international students and their wives delivering their baby there.

First hospital to employ medical interpreters in Sapporo

Six SEMI members work as part-time employees of the ObGyn department

A lot of English documents are available:

Questionnaires (Department of ObGyn)	For “HBsAg Positive” Expectant Mothers
Necessary things for hospitalization	Preparations for Hospitalization
Maternity Check-up Plan	Payment for the Delivery
An Important Request to All Mothers	As delivery approaches
Exercise for a Breech Baby Pregnancy	Group B Streptococcus Infection (GBS)
For those who are not immune to rubella	For those who are overdue
Informed Consent for Anesthesia	About Cesarean section
Vaccination for Hepatitis B	How to bathe your baby
Hospitalization Guide	When you should come to hospital

Medical Intervention during childbirth	Caring for yourself postpartum
For those mothers scheduled to have a C-Section	Family Planning
To women with Rh incompatibility during pregnancy	Breastfeeding
Schedule for the hospitalization (Natural Delivery)	Vitamin K Syrup
Schedule for the hospitalization (C-Section)	
For those taking the 50g Glucose Challenge Test	
For those taking the 75g Glucose Tolerance Test (Maternity Checkup)	
How will your maternity check-up cost at a glance? (Sapporo City)	
What should I prepare for my baby's arrival while I'm pregnant?	
Information on Maternity Health Check-up Tests	
Prevention of Hepatitis B mother to child transmission	
For those undergoing surgery for miscarriage	
Screening for the newborn baby for hearing loss	
Medication: during pregnancy and after childbirth	
Check List for VTE Risk Factors During Pregnancy	
For those who use free maternity health checkup coupons issued by Sapporo city	
Explanation for Cesarean Section with Partner Present	

- (2) Nire-no-Mori Clinic (Elm Grove Clinic) offers temporary hemodialysis treatment during for foreign tourists on for foreigners on a business trip. SEMI interpreters have worked as temporal employees when needed since 2015.
- (3) Hokkaido University Hospital accepts inbound patients for highly advanced medical treatment such as proton beam therapy. Some SEMI interpreters have personal contract with supporting companies.