

Permanent Health Care Interpreter Program Administration Rules Changes

As part of removing barriers to developing a sustainable Health Care Interpreter (HCI) workforce in Oregon, the following Administrative Rules (OARs) have been updated to ensure that qualified interpreters on the state registry who interpret in certifiable languages, have additional time to meet all requirements for renewing their state credentialing and registry enrollment. The OAR changes are justified because the additional requirements for renewing HCI letters were implemented after most interpreters were qualified or certified by the state.

Note: There will be no more rule changes to extend the time for renewing HCI letters, so please take advantage of the additional time to complete all required certification tests and continuing education.

HCI's who do not complete and submit their renewal requirements to OHA at least 60 days before their updated expiry dates, would be permanently removed from the HCI registry.

The specific changes include:

- (1) Changing the renewal period for HCI letters and registry enrollment from 3 to 4 years (from 36 to 48 months)
 - OAR 333-002-0120: To maintain eligibility for registry renewal, certified and qualified health care interpreters shall complete 24 hours of Authority approved continuing education during the **48-month registry period...**
 - Continuing education records shall be maintained by registered health care interpreters **for a minimum of four years.**
 - OAR 333-002-0140: **Letters of qualification are valid for 48 months** from the date of issue and are not renewable for languages for which certification is available¹.
 - OAR 333-002-0150: **Letters of certification are valid for 48 months** from the date of issue and are renewable.
 - OAR 333-002-0170: Certified or qualified health care interpreters who intend to maintain enrollment in the registry **shall renew their certification or qualification every 48 months...**
 - At least **60 days before the expiration of certification or qualification**, an applicant for renewal shall submit: (a) A completed Authority renewal form....

How do the changes affect state qualified and certified HCI's?

¹ Vietnamese interpreters can now renew their HCI letters and registry enrollment by completing only their 24 hours of continuing education. Vietnamese interpreters can choose to take their certification exams, but it is not required for Oregon HCI renewal.

- (1) All HCI expiration dates have changed
(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17K6H39Usc_fxL-xnNjLrzpVLLw0Fi2TA7TZscjzdtH8/pub?single=true&gid=0&output=html).
- (2) Expiration dates have been extended by approximately 12 months (1 year) beginning on February 1, 2019, the effective date for the OAR changes.
- (3) The new expiration dates depend on previous dates. Therefore, some interpreters have less than a year to complete all their renewal requirements:
 - a. All expiration dates between September 14, 2016 and January 31, 2019, have changed to February 1, 2020.
 - b. All expiration dates after February 1, 2019 have changed to the same date plus an additional year.
 - i. For example, expiration dates from February 2 to February 28, 2019 have changed to February 2 to February 28, 2020 December 1 to December 31, 2019 have also changed to December 1 to December 31, 2020.
 - ii. January 1 to 31, 2020 have changed to January 1 to 31, 2021... December 1 to 31, 2020 have also changed to December 1 to 31, 2021.
 - iii. January 1 to 31, 2021 have changed to January 1 to 31, 2022... December 1 to 31, 2021 have also changed to December 1 to 31, 2022.
 - iv. January 1 to 31, 2022 have changed to January 1 to 31, 2023... February 1 to 28, 2022 have also changed to February 1 to 28, 2023.
 - c. All applications approved after February 1, 2019 will have the new 4-year expiration (**day, month, 2023**) based on the day and month of approval.

A copy of the updated Administrative Rules is published on the Oregon Secretary of state's website. Here is a link to the revised rules:

https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action;JSESSIONID_OARD=ixCTj-cSne_Z_ra43MaSKcchuEl2bQDvrJFqc5w1V7wOfEOEQnIR!-580456612?ruleVrsnRsn=255381).