

**The SUM Program for Medical Transcription Training
Career Development Series:**

**Interpreting ESL Medical Dictation
on CD-ROM**

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by Health Professions Institute

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Published by
Sally C. Pitman
Health Professions Institute
P. O. Box 801
Modesto, CA 95353-0801
Fax (209) 551-0404
Phone (209) 551-2112
Web site: <http://hpisum.com>
Web site: <http://SUMprogram.com>

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Preface

Interpreting ESL Medical Dictation is the first product in the new Career Development Series of The SUM Program for Medical Transcription Training by Health Professions Institute. This two-hour dictation unit provides a challenging opportunity for advanced students and practitioners to upgrade their skills in interpreting ESL (English as a second language) dictation.

Interpreting ESL Medical Dictation consists of 38 medical, surgical, and diagnostic reports of authentic physician dictation in cardiology, gastroenterology, general surgery, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics-gynecology, orthopedics, pain management, pediatrics, psychiatry, pulmonary medicine, radiology imaging, rehabilitation, urology, and wound management. Challenging reports were dictated by ESL physicians from India, China, and Latin America.

Several informative essays are provided to help medical transcriptionists develop a better understanding of the *process* of interpreting foreign-accented medical dictation. To quote Marlene Schoenberg in “Decoding International Accents,” “Success in decoding accents requires a solid understanding about the sound systems of international physicians’ languages, a positive attitude directing you toward problem solving, and a creative approach to listening to what you are hearing from different angles,” and “Once you can listen past the cultural voice, half of your work is done.” This should be encouraging for advanced students and experienced practitioners who struggle with foreign-accented medical dictation in school and on the job.

What often makes transcribing dictation by ESL physicians and other health professionals is not their foreign accents or less than ideal mastery of American English grammar and style. The language difficulty is exacerbated by the same poor dictating habits characteristic of many physician dictators, whether native American or foreign-born—mumbling technical terms and directions, racing over laboratory values, mangling syntax, and inconsiderately ignoring common courtesies required for clear communication. Such is true of these 38 reports, but arming ourselves with an understanding of accented dictation practices in general, coupled with advanced understanding of medical and surgical procedures and practices, will prove to be a winning formula in interpreting all ESL medical dictation.

This *Interpreting ESL Medical Dictation* unit was developed primarily by Ellen Drake, an experienced medical transcription educator, author, and editor. She has mentored thousands of students and professionals at every level over the past 20-30 years, and she has long recognized the need for specific training in interpreting foreign-accented dictation. Special thanks for editing assistance also go to Linda C. Campbell, Kathryn Stewart, and John H. Dirckx, M.D.

Sally C. Pitman
Health Professions Institute

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TRANSCRIPT KEYS

1. **Cardiology** Followup Office Visit: Coronary artery disease, status post CABG.
2. **Cardiology** History & Physical: Coronary artery disease, chest pain, cardiomyopathy.
3. **Cardiology** Consultation Letter: Cardiomyopathy, palpitations.
4. **Cardiology** History & Physical: Followup, depressed left ventricular systolic function.
5. **Cardiology** Followup Office Visit: Atherosclerotic heart disease, status post CABG, chronic renal failure, left ventricular systolic function, hypertension, stent placement, biventricular pacing.
6. **Gastrointestinal** Endoscopy Note: External hemorrhoid, nonspecific inflammatory bowel disease, sigmoid diverticula.
7. **Gastrointestinal** Endoscopy Note: Hemorrhoids, sigmoid diverticula.
8. **Gastrointestinal** Endoscopy Note: Hemorrhoids, sigmoid diverticula, sigmoid-descending colon junction.
9. **Gastrointestinal** Operative Report: Laparoscopic preperitoneal right inguinal hernia repair.
10. **General Surgery** Operative Report: Breast excision biopsy.
11. **Internal Medicine** Discharge Summary: Postbleed anemia, angiodysplasia with hemorrhage, aortic valve disorder, chronic obstructive lung disease, coal miner's lung disease, coronary artery disease, hypothyroidism.

12. **Neurology** Progress Note: Leg numbness, herniated disk, radicular symptoms.
13. **Neurology** Clinic Note: Progressive scoliotic deformity.
14. **Neurology** Letter: Arm tingling and numbness, shoulder pain, foraminal stenosis.
15. **Neurology** Office Visit Note: Congenital myotonia dystrophica, muscular deficiency.

16. **Obstetrics-Gynecology** Operative Report: Cesarean section.
17. **Obstetrics-Gynecology** Operative Report: Laparoscopic tubal banding by Falope-Ring.
18. **Obstetrics-Gynecology** Discharge Summary: Intrauterine pregnancy, delivery, group B strep positive.

19. **Orthopedics** Operative Report: Right above-the-knee amputation.
20. **Orthopedics** Operative Report: Excision of right wrist ganglion cyst.

21. **Pain Management** Consultation: Lumbar epidural steroid injection, paracentral disk extrusion.
22. **Pain Management** Procedure Note: Cervical epidural steroid injection, neck pain.

23. **Pediatrics** Discharge Summary: Viral gastroenteritis.
24. **Pediatrics** Discharge Summary: Term Hispanic female newborn, neonatal jaundice.
25. **Pediatrics** Discharge Summary: Febrile illness, lower lobe pneumonia, urinary tract infection.

26. **Psychiatry** Discharge Summary: Excessive alcohol and drug ingestion, combative behavior.

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30. **Radiology Imaging** CT Virtual Colonoscopy: Diverticulosis, renal cyst, hepatic cyst.
31. **Radiology Imaging** CT Virtual Colonoscopy: Cystic mass lesion versus hydrocele, hydronephrosis, renal stone.
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38. **Wound Management** Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Progress Report: Diabetic foot.