INDUSTRY INSIGHT · TRANSLATION & LOCALIZATION

WHEN A MISTRANSLATION BECOMES A CLINICAL ERROR

The real cost of linguistic shortcuts in medical translation, and what professional language services change.

Medical Translation | Localization | Risk Mitigation

INDUSTRY INSIGHT

Two Cases, One Lesson

THE CASE

Germany, 2006 to 2007

U.S. packaging for a knee implant component read “non-modular cemented.” Hospital staff understood it as “non-cemented,” and the component was implanted without cement.

The outcome: 47 patients affected. 30 needed revision surgery, with 4 more scheduled.

Source: Fakler et al., *Patient Safety in Surgery*, 2007

THE CASE

Spain, a British patient

A patient’s medical history was misread, leading doctors to believe her mother and sister had had breast cancer. She says no translator was offered.

The outcome: She underwent a double mastectomy she says was unnecessary, and sued the hospital for negligent practice.

Source: *The Olive Press*, October 2015

The True Cost of Linguistic Shortcuts

For the patient

Avoidable pain, distress, and repeated, traumatic procedures.

For the institution

Inflated costs, legal liability, and reputational damage.

Relying on machine translation or a bilingual colleague is a risk **no institution should take**.



The Solution: Expert Precision

Our specialist linguists bring medical terminology, regulatory standards, and cultural nuance to every project. Their work is your safeguard.

Terminology expertise

Specialist linguists who master medical terminology and regulatory standards.

Attention to detail

Every label, instruction, and record checked with the care a clinical setting demands.

Ethics & confidentiality

Uncompromising professional ethics and protection of sensitive information.

What Changes with Professional Language Services

01. For hospitals & manufacturers

Risk mitigation, regulatory compliance, and protection against costly litigation.

02. For patients

Accurate information, informed consent, and safer medical outcomes.

03. For your business

Global market readiness, brand trust, and operational continuity.

Precision isn't just about words. **It protects lives and business integrity.**



ad astra

Trust experts, not shortcuts

Whether you are communicating patient health information or protecting organizational integrity on a global scale, we will help you get the precision right. Contact us for a confidential consultation.

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