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Medical Translation During Times of Pandemic

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Abstract

In this age of the coronavirus pandemic, medical translation is more essential than ever; and medical interpreters and translators in the medical field are in a unique and challenging position as they're rushing to translate and disseminate the latest scientific findings to researchers all over the world. But there are a lot of factors that are constantly at play in the world of medical translation services, that is why medical translation and interpretation services require a keen understanding of how medical jargon can be perceived differently across borders.

There are many different types of medical translation and specific requirements to become a professional medical translator. The translator has to do much more than just passing the meaning from one language into another. The medical translator must be capable of knowing and understanding all of the correct medical terms in at least two different languages. Even medical transcription requires an in-depth knowledge of specific medical terms and jargon.

Also, medical interpreters and translators are the key for migrants to have access to proper medical treatment during the coronavirus pandemic. They work with many foreign-language speakers in France: some of them are English speaking individuals from India and Pakistan, the majority are Arabic speakers from the MENA-Sahel region (Middle East, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa). Many of them have a "Low French Proficiency" (LFP), or they are individuals with a deficient LFP offering suffering in terms of available services due to language restrictions.

This article explains the role and importance of medical interpreters and translators in times of global crisis. It shows how these people are on the front lines and must quickly, completely, and accurately provide the medical translations.

Key Words

Pandemic, Medical, Translation, Interpreter, Culture, Migrants, Anthropology, Psycholinguistics, LFP.