

---

## MYTHS OF MEDICAL INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION

Translating and interpreting for the medical industry requires precise expertise, with little room for mistakes. If you need a medical language professional, will want to evaluate all options in order to be certain that you are hiring an individual or a company that is reputable and knowledgeable with extensive experience translating and interpreting within the healthcare industry.

Here are 3 common myths in the industry and the information you need to know when looking for medical translators and interpreters.

- **Medical Interpreters Require An Advanced Degree In Medicine**

While a degree in the medical field is useful and definitely an advantage, from a realistic and practical standpoint it's clear that not every translator or interpreter's career path includes medical school.

Medical interpreters and translators wanting to bridge language gaps definitely need several years of experience working in or around medical facilities and they require extensive knowledge of medical terminology in both their source and target language.

- **Interpreting Wastes Healthcare Resources**

Actually, hiring professional interpreters can reduce healthcare costs through the improvement of doctor-patient communication.

For example: When a language barrier prevents a doctor from correctly diagnosing a patient, he will inevitably be forced to order extra tests that could have been prevented if the communication barrier was not present. Many patients may not understand their diagnosis or feel that doctors are unable to properly explain their level of care. So not only does inadequate communication lead to more tests and the discomfort of the patient, but can also lead to higher risk of lawsuits.

- **Machine Translation Eliminates The Need For Human Translators**

This myth is very high profile right now for many, though it is completely wrong. In reality, machine translations are leading to the expansion of demand for human translation. The typical free online App, while it may provide the gist of a translation, to the average person it clearly shows the problems inherent in translating from one language to another. The most successful machine translation applications are still missing the mark and are unable to translate texts that accurately convey the nuances

of language. So far, only humans can accurately perform this task. Rarely does technology completely wipe out an entire industry. Instead, advances in technology help industries to evolve. Translation is such a field, especially medical translation with its complex terms and specialized subject matter.

Accurate medical translators and interpreters are highly specialized, trained professionals. And, for that, there is no substitute.

*Members:*

The Association of Language Companies [www.alcus.org](http://www.alcus.org)

American Translators Association [www.americantranslators.org](http://www.americantranslators.org)

Commerce and Industry of New Jersey [www.cianj.org](http://www.cianj.org)

A Division of The Center for Professional Advancement [www.cfpa.com](http://www.cfpa.com)