



SimulTrans
your languages – your timeline

Excerpt | Medical Translation Best Practices

The 13 Most Important Practices for Successful Medical Translation

A free excerpt from the full eBook by SimulTrans.

Getting medical translation wrong isn't just embarrassing, it can be dangerous. For life science companies operating across borders, translation accuracy isn't optional; it's a patient safety imperative.

We've identified 13 proven practices that separate high-quality medical translation from costly, compliance-risking mistakes. Below, we share three of them and give you a preview of what's waiting in the full guide.

1: Choose Professional Translators Who Are Medical Specialists

Medical terminology is highly specialized and unforgiving. A translator who switches between mobile apps, legal contracts, and pharmaceutical content is not equipped for the nuance your materials demand.

Crowdsourcing and generalist translators can work well in many industries, but medical translation is not one of them. You need specialists who live and breathe clinical language in both the source and target markets.

The bottom line: Domain expertise isn't a nice-to-have. It's the foundation of accurate medical translation.

2: Conduct a Thorough Review by a Medical Expert

Translation is only the first step. A subject-matter expert review is what catches the errors, the kind of errors that affect clinical meaning.

A robust review process typically includes two stages:

- **Technical review:** Verifies that clinical terminology is accurate (e.g., a cardiologist reviewing HVAD device content, or a pharmacist confirming trial-specific language).
- **Linguistic review:** Ensures the language flows naturally and reads appropriately for the target audience (style, grammar, and regional conventions).

The bottom line: One set of expert eyes is good. Two is better. This step is non-negotiable for regulated medical content.

3: Invest Appropriately — Cheap Translation Costs More in the Long Run

In medical translation, the temptation to cut costs can have serious consequences. Low-cost translations require more editing, create compliance risk, confuse end users, and endanger patients.

Investing in quality translation means investing in higher-skilled translators, more thorough reviews, and better processes, all of which reduce downstream costs from errors and rework.

The bottom line: The right investment upfront protects your patients, your reputation, and your regulatory standing.

There Are 10 More Practices in the Full eBook

The remaining practices cover critical areas that many translation buyers overlook:

- **4:** Understand Back Translation
- **5:** Use the Right Symbols
- **6:** Weigh Formatting and Printing Costs
- **7:** Value ISO Certifications
- **8:** Translate Formatted Materials
- **9:** Use Translation Memory
- **10:** Consider Machine Translation Carefully
- **11:** Review Press-Ready Proofs
- **12:** Convey Feedback
- **13:** Visit Other Countries

Get the Full eBook