

Informed Consent Form Translation Cheat Sheet

Introduction

If you're a linguist in training, this cheat sheet is ideal for you.

We'll explain:

What's an informed consent form?

What's the purpose of an informed consent form?

What's the anatomy of an informed consent form?

The greatest challenge of this type of translation

2 alternatives to professional medical translation



What's an Informed Consent Form?

Informed consent form: A document in which a subject confirms that they understand the implications of a medical procedure they're about to undergo.

What's the Purpose of an Informed Consent Form?

Medical consent forms are both provided to patients in health-care settings and to study subjects in the context of clinical trials. Informed consent forms guarantee fair treatment to the patient /study subject while reducing liabilities for the practitioners /researchers.

The Anatomy of an Informed Consent Form

In healthcare contexts, an informed consent form usually includes:

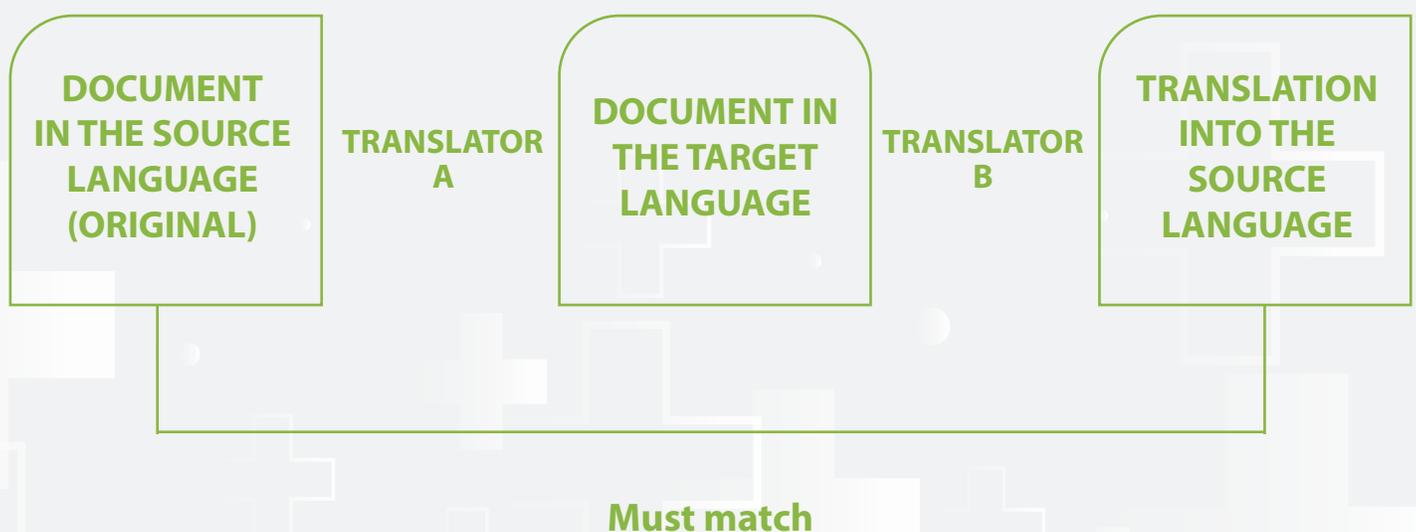
- A detailed diagnosis of the medical condition.
- The name and purpose of the treatments.
- The possible risks, benefits, and treatment alternatives.
- The risks and benefits of such alternatives.

The Greatest Challenge of Informed Consent Form Translation

Medical research and procedures tend to involve specific terminology use, and consent forms are written in a sort of hybrid registry: They're not as technical as patents, since the person reading them is not a medical specialist, but they can't be vague either.

Back Translation: A Note-Worthy Alternative Translation Method

This process consists of having a linguist translate the original document, and then having the output re-translated by another translator, who hasn't seen the original. Then, the people in charge compare the original to the re-translated text. This process aims to verify translation quality.



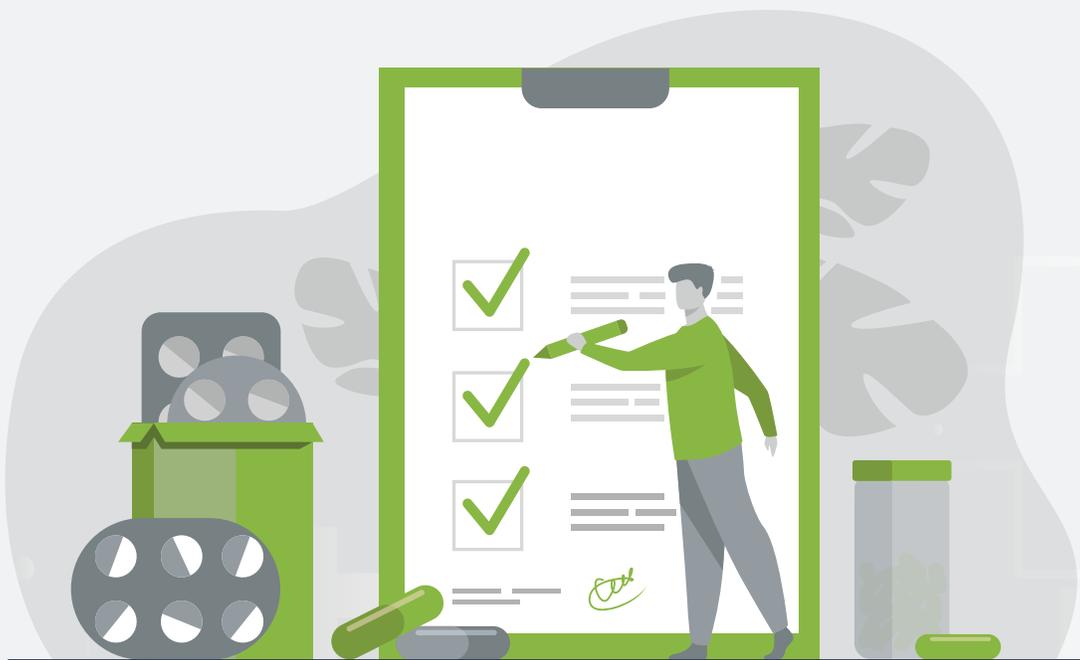
Short-form Consent Documents

When a specialized medical translator is not available, and the subject or patient has some degree of proficiency in the local language, medical professionals may create short-form consent documents. These documents explain the procedure and its consequences in "plain language". The usage of short-form documents is rarely recommended, since it may result in unclear communication, thus defeating the purpose of a consent form.

Interested in Medical Translation?

Check out our blog for professional insight into the process.

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