

Sight
Translation in
Healthcare
Interpreting

**Paving the Way to Health Care Access
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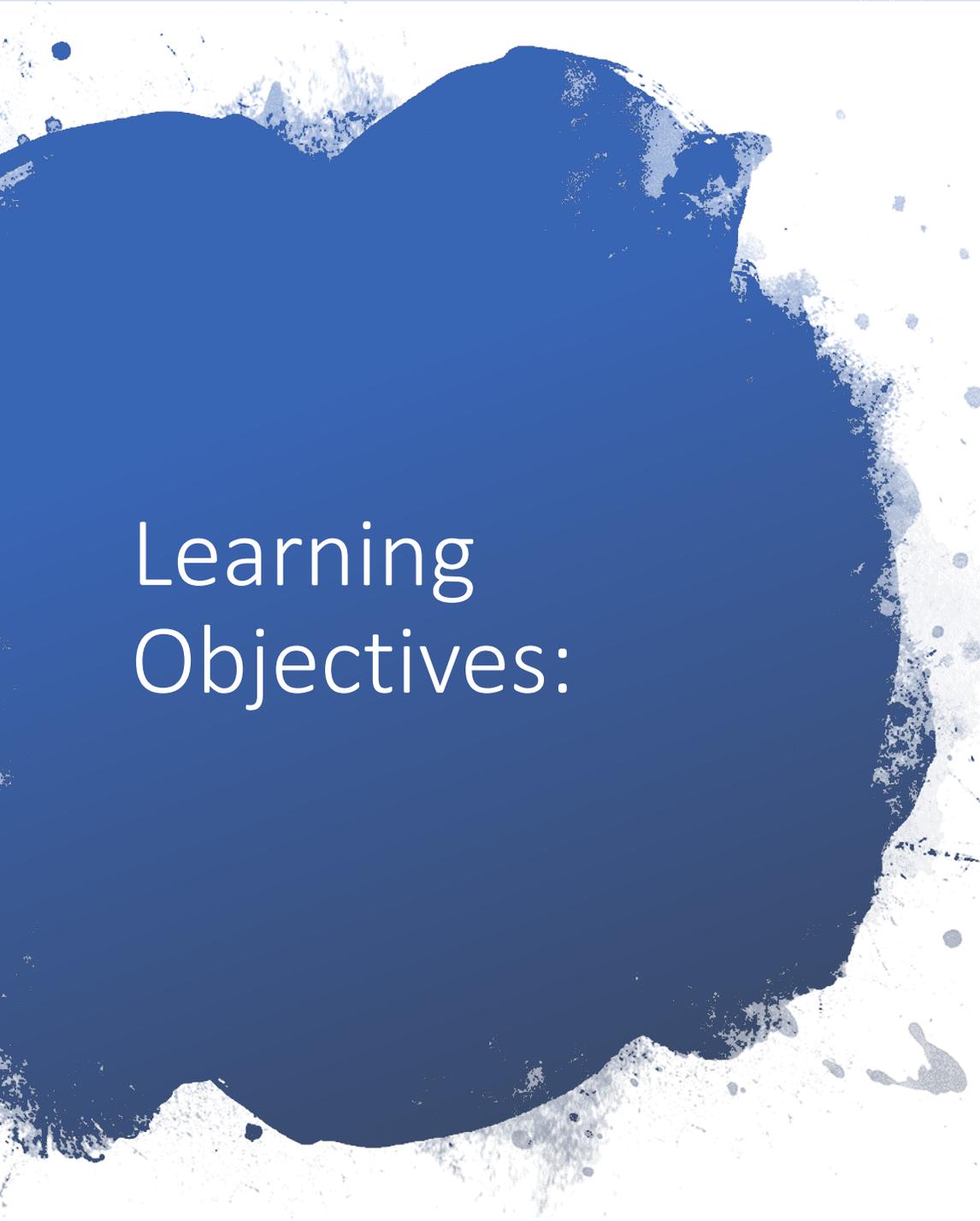
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Sight Translation: Process and Practice for Best Renditions

This workshop will focus on two aspects of sight translation, some brief discussion on what interpreters are asked to translate and how to approach these texts. The second portion of the workshop will be allocated to practice, with recommended strategies and techniques on how to approach a written text and how to analyze the content to produce a fluid and accurate oral rendition. Using peer reviews, participants will comment on others, especially noticing delivery, backtracking, and accuracy. The instructor will share a method of self-study on how to continuously improve sight translation skills.



Learning Objectives:

1. Understand that Sight Translation is not just reading and understanding, it requires comprehension and analysis.
2. Discuss the types of written documents interpreters are asked to translate, what is doable and what is not doable and what might cause interpreter fatigue and an increase in errors
3. Practice most common written texts in healthcare interpreting to understanding the concepts of delivery, backtracking and accuracy.
4. Benefit from peer feedback to notice patterns where certain strategies and techniques can be applied to improve.
5. Learn a method of self-study for continuous improvement

What is Sight Translation (ST)



Sight translation is the oral rendition of text written in one language into another language and is usually done in the moment. Sight translation is often requested of an interpreter during an interpreting assignment.



Documents with specific instructions are appropriate for sight translation, with the provider present, so that the patient's questions can be answered by the provider, not the interpreter.



NCIHC white paper: "Sight Translation and Written Translation: Guidelines for Healthcare Interpreters," April 2009

Deliberate Practice

- ST is a complex cognitive process, characterized by the simultaneous management of two tasks: visual reception and oral production
- Practice will help interpreters to increase their speed of analysis, and help them to render a text with correct syntax and stylistics
- The goal of practice is to improve skill development and acquisition.
- *Deliberate practice* - highly structured activities designed to improve specific aspects of the experts' performance
- Goal setting sets out the purpose of the practice, and allows for assessment of a particular area.



What do we Sight Translate?

- In general, medical documents can be classified in vital and non-vital.
- According to the US Department of Health and Human Services Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI, some forms need to be translated in writing by a professional translator and cannot be sight translated.
- Vital documents referring to confidentiality, patient's rights and other institutional information. Financial agreements, informed consent, living will, advanced directives and other legal documents. Specific instructions for care that may need to be accessed by patient later, such as discharge instructions.

How to best render a ST

- Reading comprehension
- Look for specific vocabulary you might need to look up
- Analyze the meaning.
- Break it up into sections, or chunks (called chunking) to break it down into segments of thought
- Reformulate looking especially at syntax and conversion of source to target language
- Public speaking and delivery

Delivery



Be comfortable in your abilities; don't race to finish



Complete sentences.



Avoid back tracking



Try to maintain eye contact with patient



Avoid gaps



Watch your tone and intonation, make it sound natural in the target language.



Don't make extra movements or gestures and flipping pages

Setting goal

It is necessary to have the text and the audio to self assess or ask for peer assessment

Prior to practicing, set a problem identification, a focus or, design of deliberate practice for problem solving

Read and analyze, chunking your document in meaningful units

Record your rendition

Listen to your recording and mark up your text focusing on your goal

Repeat to assess improvement in all areas (use rubric provided)