



## **NAHN Urges Precise Spanish Terminology for Identifying Nurse Practitioners**

As the leading Hispanic serving nursing organization dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of Hispanic communities and supporting Hispanic nurses, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) recognizes the importance of linguistic precision in healthcare communication. In recent years, there has been a growing need for clarity and consistency when referring to healthcare professionals, including Nurse Practitioners, in Spanish-speaking communities. There are key challenges and nuances that demand careful approaches to avoid errors when translating and interpreting from English to Spanish as well as accurate translation and interpretation of the terms *Nurse Practitioner* and *Advance Practice Nurse* in the Spanish language (Appendix A).

The title "Nurse Practitioner" is commonly translated and interpreted to "Enfermero(a) Especializado(a)" in Spanish. However, it is essential to emphasize that this translation/interpretation does not fully capture the scope of practice, responsibilities, level of education attained by Nurse Practitioners and requirement to achieve national certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and/or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

NAHN advocates for the use of the term 'Enfermero(a) Practicante Avanzada' when referring to the Nurse Practitioner (NP) and 'Enfermero(a) de Práctica Avanzada' when referring to the Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) as a more accurate translation and interpretation of the English terms. The recommended choice of words reflects the advanced education, clinical training, and expertise that Nurse Practitioners in the U.S. possess. In addition, the proposed terms align with the evolving role of Nurse Practitioners in providing comprehensive and specialized healthcare services, contributing significantly to meeting the needs of communities across the nation and improving patient care outcomes.

NAHN encourages healthcare organizations, policymakers, and the broader community to adopt this precise terminology when referring to Nurse Practitioners and Advance Practice Nurses in Spanish; and requests that current and future legislation such as CA AB 890 be updated. By doing so, we can enhance communication, foster understanding, and elevate the recognition of the valuable contributions that Nurse Practitioners make to the healthcare system.

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### **About the National Association of Hispanic Nurses**

Since 1975, NAHN has been the nation's leading professional society for Latino nurses. With a growing membership of more than 40 local chapters, NAHN represents the voices of over 220,000 Latino nurses throughout the United States. NAHN is devoted to promoting safe, quality health care delivery to Latino communities and recognizing excellence among Latino nurses. To learn more, visit [www.nahnnet.org](http://www.nahnnet.org).

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## Appendix A.

To mitigate language translation challenges, it is imperative to engage affected stakeholders, in this case Hispanic Nurses and Nurse Practitioners and enlist skilled and experienced translators, especially for industry-specific content requiring cultural sensitivity and precision. As the nation's leading professional society promoting professional excellence among bilingual and bicultural Hispanic nurses, NAHN is here as a resource pertaining to nursing-specific content requiring cultural sensitivity and language precision and should be included in discussions and decisions pertaining to Hispanic nurses.

Key considerations to avoid errors when translating from English to Spanish include:

1. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Spanish and English carry distinct cultural contexts. Translators must navigate expressions, idioms, and humor that lack direct equivalents in the other language, ensuring accurate conveyance of intended meanings.
2. **Grammatical Variances:** English and Spanish boast different grammatical structures. Translators must possess proficiency in both languages to maintain proper sentence structure, verb conjugation, and grammatical precision.
3. **False Cognates:** Similar-looking words in English and Spanish may harbor different meanings, potentially conveying unintended messages.
4. **Contextual Clarity:** Ambiguity in the source text may yield varied interpretations. Translators must consider context and select the most appropriate translation to convey intended meanings.
5. **Register and Tone:** English and Spanish speakers may employ varying levels of formality or tone. Preserving the intended tone by choosing the appropriate level of formality is crucial in translation.
6. **Linguistic Variations:** Spanish exhibits regional linguistic variations and colloquialisms. Translators should be cognizant of these differences to provide culturally relevant translations.
7. **Technical and Industry-Specific Terminology:** Translating technical or industry-specific content, such as nursing, necessitates expertise in the relevant field. Misinterpretation of specialized terms can result in inaccuracies.
8. **Machine Translation Limitations:** While translation tools have improved, they may still struggle with context and nuanced language. Human translators often yield superior results, particularly for complex or creative content.
9. **Word Order Disparities:** English and Spanish follow different word orders. Translators must rearrange words to uphold clarity and coherence in the target language.