SPANISH FOR EMTS – GET YOUR SURVIVAL EMERGENCY GUIDE

As a healthcare worker, you know that most days won't be easy, you know that stress will be there, and it will be a fast-paced environment, but being an emergency responder makes it even more difficult, since you're the first person to assist and have contact with the patient that may be in shock. That's why it's so important to have the best communication with your patient to provide excellent assistance and attention.

Considering that Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world, there's no doubt that you'll have a large number of patients who speak Spanish as their native language. And as an emergency responder, you'll need to be able to communicate effectively with your patients, being able to express fluently, reading their signs of pain, and understanding the spoken language. You must also keep in mind that in an emergency the patient may not be in the best state of mind to provide you with vital information that you will need to assist them, so your skill with their language is going to make a difference.

That's why in today's blog we decided to give you a guide with Spanish terms for first responders, EMTs, paramedics, and emergency responders in general. Let us know in the comments what other terms or phrases we could add to make it more complete.

Check Out Our
Medical Spanish Training

Controlling The Scene

When you arrive at the scene, you may need these phrases to give some indications or ask a few questions to get a better understanding of what happened and assess the situation.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Please, I need everyone to move away from the scene	Por favor, necesito que todos se alejen de la escena
Please, don't touch or try to move the injured person	Por favor, no toquen ni intenten mover al herido
I need you to call the Police / Fire department	Necesito que llame a la Policía / los Bomberos
Call 911	Llame al 911
Stay on the line until help arrives	Manténgase en la línea hasta que la ayuda llegue
What happened?	¿Qué sucedió?
How long ago did it happen?	¿Hace cuánto tiempo pasó?
How many people are there?	¿Cuántas personas son?
Were you able to see if anyone was hurt?	¿Pudo ver si hay alguien herido?
Where are the injured?	¿Dónde están los heridos?
Are they trapped?	¿Están atrapados?
Are they conscious?	¿Están conscientes?
How long have they been unconscious?	¿Cuánto tiempo llevan inconscientes?
Have you been able to talk to them?	¿Ha logrado hablar con ellos?
Where is the accident?	¿Dónde es el accidente?

Initial Contact With Patients

Making first contact with a patient can be difficult in an emergency, since they may be in shock. That's why we've gathered these phrases that may come in handy when communicating with your patient for the first time.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Good morning	Buenos días
Good evening / Good night	Buenas noches (to say hello and goodbye)
Good afternoon	Buenas tardes
My name is _____ and I will assist you today	Mi nombre es _____ y le asistiré hoy
Can you talk?	¿Puede hablar?
What's your name?	¿Cuál es su nombre?
Do you have any family or friend that I may contact?	¿Tiene algún familiar o amigo a quien pueda contactar?
Tell me their phone number	Dígame su número telefónico
What's your address?	¿Cuál es su dirección?
If you cannot speak, nod your head yes or no	Si no puede hablar, mueva la cabeza para decir sí o no
Blink once for yes, or twice for no	Pestañee una vez para sí, o dos para no
Tell me how many fingers you can see (one, two, three, four, five)	Dígame cuántos dedos puede ver (uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco)

Patient Information About Their Symptoms

In these situations, it is crucial to know what's bothering your patient to provide appropriate care and attention to their symptoms.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Can you hear me?	¿Puede oírme?
Can you see me?	¿Puede verme?
Can you move your (body part here)?	¿Puede mover su (body part here)?
Can you move the fingers/toes of your right/left hand/foot?	¿Puede mover los dedos de su mano (hand) / pie (foot) derecho (right) / izquierdo (left)?
Do you have difficulty breathing?	¿Tiene dificultad para respirar?
Do you have any drug allergies?	¿Tiene alguna alergia a algún medicamento?
Do you have any previous health problems?	¿Tiene algún problema de salud previo?
Do you take any type of medication?	¿Toma algún tipo de medicación?
Please, tell me the name of the medication and in what dosage you take it	Dígame el nombre de la medicación y en qué dosis la toma, por favor
Where does it hurt?	¿Dónde le duele?
Point out the area of pain.	Señale la zona del dolor.
If you had to describe the pain you would say it's...	Si tuviera que describir el dolor diría que es...

Types Of Pain In Spanish

Here, we'll share with you the most common ways of describing pain, so you can communicate better with your patient when trying to figure out the severity of their symptoms.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Burning	Quemante
Stabbing	Punzante
Latent	Latente
Throbbing	Palpitante
Dull	Sordo
Sharp	Agudo
Sudden	Súbito
Tingling	Hormigueo
Intermittent	Intermitente
Constant	Constante

Gather Basic Information About The Emergency

To be able to understand what happened at the scene and provide better assistance, you're going to need to ask a few questions about the emergency.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Tell me what happened to you.	Cuénteme qué le sucedió.
When did it happen?	¿Cuándo sucedió?

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Did you fall?	¿Se cayó?
How did it happen?	¿Cómo ocurrió?
Was it an accident?	¿Fue un accidente?
Has this ever happened to you before?	¿Le había ocurrido esto antes?
When?	¿Cuándo?

Emergency Terms In Spanish

We recently wrote a blog about emergency room Spanish vocabulary not too long ago. Take a look there to expand on your emergency room Spanish vocabulary on top of the phrases/terms below.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Allergic reaction	Reacción alérgica
Anaphylactic shock	Shock anafiláctico
First, second or third degree burn	Quemadura de primer, segundo o tercer grado
Cardiac arrest	Paro cardíaco / cardiorrespiratorio
Acute myocardial infarction	Infarto agudo de miocardio
Asthma	Asma
Fracture or open fracture	Fractura simple o expuesta
Sprain	Esguince o torcedura
Cervical sprain	Esguince cervical

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Cranial trauma	Trauma craneal
Epilepsy	Epilepsia
Car accident	Accidente de tránsito
Convulsions	Convulsiones
Trauma fall	Trauma por caída
Gunshot wound	Herida de bala
Stab wound	Herida por arma blanca
Poisoning or intoxication	Envenenamiento o intoxicación
Internal bleeding	Hemorragia interna
External bleeding	Hemorragia externa
Vital signs	Signos vitales
Loss of vital signs	Pérdida de signos vitales
Pain	Dolor
Bleeding	Sangrado
Discomfort	Molestia
Inflammation	Inflamación

Cpr In Spanish (Resucitación Cardiopulmonar)

If you ever have to assist a caller over the phone with an emergency that may require CPR, we have a guide in Spanish that can help you. **Keep in mind, this is not medical advice and shouldn't be interpreted as such**. Consult a medical professional to actually

learn CPR and how you can help someone, and in case of an emergency, call 911. This is simply a guide/reminder for those who are already professionally trained.

1. Check if the person is conscious or not **(Chequee si la persona está consciente o inconsciente).**
2. If the person appears to be unconscious, touch their shoulder and ask if they're alright **(Si la persona parece estar inconsciente toque su hombro y pregúntele si está bien).**
3. Make sure that the person is lying on a firm surface **(Asegúrese que la persona se encuentra sobre una superficie firme).**
4. Kneel next to the person's neck and shoulders **(Arrodíllese junto al cuello y los hombros de la persona).**
5. Put the palm of your hand in the center of the person's chest, put your other hand on top of it. Keep your elbows straight and position your shoulders directly above your hands **(Coloque la palma de su mano en el centro del pecho de la persona, coloque su otra mano sobre esa. Mantenga sus codos derechos y posicione los hombros directamente arriba de las manos).**
6. Use your upper body, not just your arms, to compress the chest of the person strongly approximately 2 in or 5 cm **(Use la parte superior de su cuerpo, no solo sus brazos, para presionar el pecho con fuerza aproximadamente 2 pulgadas o 5 centímetros).**
7. Press firmly at a rate of 100/120 compressions per minute **(Presione con firmeza a un ritmo de 100 a 120 compresiones por minuto).**
8. Keep maneuvering until you notice movement signs or until the medical professionals arrive on the scene **(Continúe realizando la maniobra hasta que note signos de movimiento o hasta que el personal médico llegue al lugar).**

First Aid Terms In Spanish

We made a list of the most common first aid terms used in emergencies, but if you want to expand your vocabulary to other frequently used medical terms in Spanish, you can check out our medical Spanish terms blog.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Respiratory tract	Vías respiratorias

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Angina	Angina
Avulsion	Avulsión
Basic life support	Soporte vital básico
Blood pressure	Presión sanguínea
Cyanosis	Cianosis
Blood sugar	Azúcar en sangre
Dislocation	Dislocación
Nitrous oxide	Óxido nitroso
Febrile convulsion	Convulsión febril
Incision	Incisión
Insulin	Insulina
Edema	Edema
Semi-prone position	Posición de semiprono
Supine, lateral or prone position	Posición decúbito supino, lateral o prono
Prone position	Posición decúbito prono
ABCDE assessment (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, Exposure)	Evaluación ABCDE (vías respiratorias, respiración, circulación, discapacidad, exposición)

First Aid Kit In Spanish

It’s important to have a well-stocked first-aid kit, here are the basic tools a first aid kit

must have.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Medical adhesive tape	Cinta adhesiva médica
Scissors	Tijeras
Sterile gauze pads	Gasas estériles
Adhesive bandages	Vendajes adhesivos
Exam gloves	Guantes de látex desechables
Tweezers	Pinzas
Non-adhesive pads	Compresas no adhesivas
CPR mask	Mascarilla para resucitación cardio-pulmonar
Elasticbandages	Vendajes elásticos
Medical waste bags	Bolsas para deshechos médicos
Small flashlight	Linterna pequeña
Scalpel	Escalpelo
Oral and nasal decongestant	Descongestivo nasal y oral
Thermometer	Termómetro
Oxygen mask	Mascarilla de oxígeno
Oxygen tank	Tanque de oxígeno
Medical stretcher	Camilla
Automated external defibrillator (AED)	Desfibrilador

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Splint	Férula
Stethoscope	Estetoscópio
Cervical collar	Collarín cervical
Tools for IV therapy	Herramientas para terapia IV
Tracheal tube	Tubo traqueal
Endotracheal tube	Tubo endotraqueal
Thermal blanket	Manta térmica
Tracheostomy tube	Tubo de traqueotomía

First Aid Medication In Spanish

The following medication terms are the most frequently found on a first aid kit.

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Diphenhydramine (benadryl)	Clorhidrato de difenhidramina
Antibiotic cream	Crema antibiótica
Anesthetic spray	Spray anestésico
Antidiarrheal medication	Medicación antidiarreica
Aspirin	Aspirina
Antacid	Antiácido
Antihistamine (pills and cream)	Antihistamínicos (pastillas y crema)
Morphine	Morfina

English Terms	Spanish Terms
Ibuprofen	Ibuprofeno
Antiseptic spray	Spray antiséptico
Saline solution	Solución salina
Epinephrine	Epinefrina

Spanish Apps For Ems And Emts:

Language barriers can have serious consequences in the medical field such as misdiagnosis, mistreatment, and many others, that's why knowing the correct tools is a must when trying to communicate with a non-English-speaking patient.

Our cellphones are one of the tools that we use the most these days, and it is undoubtedly a great source of knowledge, but sometimes we don't know how to get the most out of it. There are so many apps to help you communicate with your patient in Spanish these days. In those apps, you can find a complement to human interpreters in healthcare and is available 24/7 on your smartphone, so today we bring you 3 Spanish apps for EMS to help you communicate better with your patients in Spanish:

- **Care to Translate:** Care to Translate is a digital medical translator for healthcare personnel, it offers medically correct communication with translations in 30 languages verified by native speakers. It works offline and is available for iOS and Android.
- **U Doctor:** Universal Doctor Speaker is a multilingual application providing key medical phrases translated across 17 languages with audios to facilitate communication between patients and healthcare professionals, it comes with over 500 commonly used medical phrases. It works offline and its content is organized into various medical chapters to help facilitate multilingual medical visits. It works offline and is available for iOS and Android.
- **Canopy Speak:** Allows you to communicate quickly with patients using over 4,700 common medical phrases created by medical professionals, available across nine medical specialties, it shows phrases with text and audio, it also has the functionality to call live medical interpreters from Canopy if needed. It is available

for iOS and Android.

Some Extra Tips:

- Work on your understanding of different accents and idioms.
- Work on making your accent to be as clear as possible.
- Create your own phrase-book with the things that you may need, here is more Spanish Vocabulary for the Emergency Room to add to your phrase-book, if you feel like you need them you could print the PDFs and carry them with you.
- Get yourself a Medical Spanish Tutor to help you with the main things that you struggle with, we have several great tutors available to learn medical Spanish online.
- Use the new technology and platforms available, like Duolingo and Facebook learning groups.
- Never give up on your journey of learning, each day you come closer to your main goal of being fluent and provide your patients with the best assistance.