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Necesito Ayuda Médica: An Analysis of Professional Spanish Translation Services in Bloomington-Normal Healthcare

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**NECESITO AYUDA MÉDICA: AN ANALYSIS OF PROFESSIONAL SPANISH
TRANSLATION SERVICES IN BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL HEALTHCARE**

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The demand for bilingual healthcare assistance in the United States grows along with the number of Hispanic immigrants (Davidson, 2000). Immigrants that lack English language skills and need medical treatment may discover a deficiency of the translation services offered. Miscommunication between doctor and patient may ensue, resulting in an inaccurate diagnosis. This case study attempts to examine the Spanish language services provided in Bloomington-Normal healthcare and the attitudes of providers and recipients concerning their experiences with the services. Regarding these services, interview responses from health care providers (two hospitals, a women's health organization and a local free clinic) are compared to a low-income Mexican immigrant family's personal experience. The family's accounts provide insight into the difficulties created by linguistic barriers in the healthcare setting, confirming the necessity for professional medical interpreters in Bloomington-Normal.

Davidson, Brad. 2000. The interpreter as institutional gatekeeper: The social-linguistic role of interpreters in Spanish-English medical discourse. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 4; 379-405.