



# Health Information Translations

The Health Information Translations (HIT) website began in 2005 when the four hospital systems in central Ohio realized they were all working to create patient education materials for non-English-speaking patients. They were duplicating efforts and unable to keep up with the demand and changing trends. With the help of the Central Ohio Hospital Council, the four systems have combined forces and launched the [healthinfotranslations.org](http://healthinfotranslations.org) website.

While HIT documents are intended to be used in the presence of a health care professional who is familiar with a patient's specific health condition, they are available to anyone free of charge. Currently, there are 374 titles on the HIT site, with each document translated in up to 14 languages, totaling 3,552 separate documents.

While focused on the needs of central Ohio patients, health providers in other U.S. cities and around the world access the Columbus HIT website between 300 and 500 times a day to reprint materials to use with their patients. The National Library of Medicine links to more than 280 HIT titles and 3,000 separate documents.

HIT utilizes a quality control, "back translation" process, in which native language speakers translate documents into their language, then another native speaker of the same language translates it back to English. This version is then compared to the original and discrepancies are ironed out or wording revised. The National Library of Medicine considers HIT "the gold standard" in plain-language, culturally sensitive translated health information in the United States.

Some additional highlights about Health Information Translations:

**Primary languages for each title:** Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, European French, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

**High volume:** In 2021, more than 85,000 visitors accessed the HIT website.

**Worldwide reach:** 34% of 2021 HIT website visitors came from outside the U.S. Top countries include: Japan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, India, South Korea, and the Philippines.

**Prestigious users:** Among the top users of HIT content, besides Columbus's four hospital systems, are: U.S. National Library of Medicine, Trinity Health, Hospital Corporation of America, Mayo Clinic, U.K. National Health Service, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Emory Healthcare, Vanderbilt Health, Baptist Health and UPMC.

An updated and more user-friendly version of the HIT website was launched in October 2022 in celebration of International Health Literacy Month.



**Dozens of educational materials are available on the HIT site under the following health topics:**

- Diagnostic Tests
- Disaster Preparedness
- Diseases and Conditions
- Exercise and Rehabilitation
- Food and Diet
- General Information
- Health and Wellness
- Home Care
- Hospital Signage
- Pain and Comfort
- Pediatrics
- Pregnancy and Baby Care
- Safety
- Stress and Coping
- Surgeries and Treatments