ePRO Translation and Global Trials: Language Scientific Examines Data Quality at Scale

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NEEDHAM, MA - December 31, 2025 -
Language Scientific is highlighting the growing role of electronic Patient-Reported Outcomes (ePRO) translation in shaping data quality across global clinical trials, as sponsors expand studies into more countries, more sites, and more languages than ever before.

As clinical research shifts toward patient-centric models, ePRO systems have become a primary channel for capturing how participants actually feel and function during treatment. That feedback only retains value when every question, instruction, and response option carries the same meaning across all languages and cultural contexts. At scale, that requirement turns ePRO translation into a data-governance issue, not just a linguistic task.

Global trials frequently span dozens of countries and dozens of language variants, with participants using tablets, smartphones, or web platforms to complete assessments. Small inconsistencies in translated items, tone, or reading level can ripple through datasets, affecting scores, endpoint analyses, and ultimately the interpretation of benefit?risk balance. For sponsors and contract research organizations, ePRO translation now sits at the intersection of clinical outcomes assessment, regulatory expectations, and operational practicality.

Language Scientific?s experience in clinical outcome assessment translation underscores that conceptual equivalence, rather than word-for-word matching, remains the central challenge. ePRO items often involve subtle concepts such as fatigue, distress, or interference with daily activities. In some languages, there may be multiple expressions for a concept with different emotional weights; in others, there may be no direct counterpart at all. Maintaining consistent measurement across cultures requires structured methodologies, including forward and back translation, reconciliation, and cognitive debriefing with patients in each locale.

At scale, that process depends heavily on robust workflows and governance. Terminology management has become a critical component of ePRO translation for multinational programs. Centralized glossaries, item banks, and style guides help ensure that the same symptom, functional limitation, or response scale is

rendered consistently in every target language. Without that discipline, datasets can become fragmented, undermining cross-country comparability and complicating pooled analyses.

Regulatory authorities have also sharpened expectations around patient-reported outcome instruments. Health agencies increasingly look for evidence that translated instruments preserve the intent of the original measure, especially when those instruments support primary or key secondary endpoints. Documentation of linguistic validation steps, rationale for terminology choices, and results of cognitive interviews has become part of the broader dossier for clinical outcome assessments. ePRO translation, therefore, now has a direct relationship to inspection readiness and submission quality.

Technology has changed the landscape as well. ePRO platforms, electronic Clinical Outcome Assessment (eCOA) systems, and cloud-based translation management tools allow many steps to happen in parallel. Language Scientific incorporates technology to track versions, manage change requests, and align translations with frequent protocol amendments. At the same time, the company emphasizes that automation cannot replace subject-matter expertise. Machine-assisted translation may speed initial drafts for certain content types, but safety-critical, patient-facing language still demands review by medical linguists familiar with each indication and population.

The device environment adds another layer of complexity. Screen size, layout, and interaction patterns affect how questions appear and how participants engage. Translated text that fits comfortably on a desktop interface may truncate or wrap awkwardly on a smartphone. ePRO translation at scale, therefore, involves close coordination with eCOA vendors and UX teams to ensure that every language version remains legible, accessible, and aligned with usability expectations.

Data quality depends on more than just technical accuracy. Cultural considerations shape how patients interpret questions about pain, mental health, sexuality, or daily functioning. Some populations may underreport symptoms due to stigma; others may use different reference points when rating severity. Language Scientific?s approach to ePRO translation integrates cultural adaptation with strict adherence to the original construct, aiming to respect local norms without altering what an item is meant to measure.

Sponsors and CROs increasingly view ePRO translation as an integral part of risk management. Misaligned or confusing items can drive missing data, inconsistent responses, and increased help-desk contacts. In large programs, even a small increase in item non-response can have statistical and operational consequences. Thoughtful translation and linguistic validation help reduce those avoidable sources of noise, supporting cleaner datasets and more confident conclusions.

Scaling operations across numerous therapeutic areas also demands flexibility. Oncology, rare disease, neuroscience, and chronic conditions all bring different terminology, symptom profiles, and measurement

tools. Language Scientific leverages medically trained linguists and indication-specific teams to adapt to these nuances while maintaining standardized processes. That combination allows large portfolios to move forward without treating every new protocol as a one-off experiment in translation.

As decentralized and hybrid trial models become more common, ePRO instruments will only grow in importance. Participants are being asked to complete assessments at home, between visits, or in real-world contexts, generating rich longitudinal data streams. The value of those data streams depends on clear, consistent language at every touchpoint. Organizations that treat ePRO translation as a strategic component of data quality?not as a late-stage administrative task?are better positioned to handle increasing regulatory scrutiny and statistical complexity.

Language Scientific?s work in ePRO translation and global trials reflects a broader shift in how the industry thinks about language. No longer confined to a post-hoc localization exercise, translation now functions as an embedded part of study design, instrument selection, and evidence generation. By aligning linguistics, technology, and regulatory awareness, the company is helping sponsors address one of the quiet but consequential drivers of data quality at scale: how patients? words, across many languages, are captured, understood, and transformed into evidence.

About Language Scientific:
Language Scientific, Inc. is a leading US-based technical and medical translation company. Our company was founded in 1999 by a group of international scientists and engineers working together on a nuclear non-proliferation project for the US Department of Energy. Discovering countless pages of inaccurate, unclear and sometimes outright dangerous translations of this highly sensitive technical material, they formed Language Scientific with the mission of setting a new quality control standard for technical translation.
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