

TICA TERP TIPS

CHIA Conference 2022 Presentation Notes

By *Marisa Rueda Will, CHI* – ticatrainingandtranslations.com

Session Recap:
*Interpreting for
Infant and
Pregnancy Loss*

by Marisa Rueda Will, CHI

Infant and Pregnancy Loss is Common

If you are a community interpreter, there is a high probability you will need to interpret for a patient or client who has experienced this type of loss. One of the points I emphasized throughout the presentation was pregnancy loss is not limited to OB encounters. Keep reading to see some examples.

Pregnancy Loss May be Unexpected

Many people think of a first trimester miscarriage when they hear the words pregnancy loss, but this is not the only type of loss women experience.

Losses can occur at any stage in pregnancy, even if the pregnancy is considered healthy.

Interpreters should be prepared for this possibility when interpreting for female patients. Here are some examples of atypical encounters that could involve pregnancy loss:

- *Abdominal pain (ectopic pregnancy)*
- *Car accident (fetal demise)*

Couples who have no genetic risk factors, may also be surprised to learn their baby has a genetic condition which is incompatible with life or that could lead to severe mental or physical handicaps. Other losses occur without any warning. A baby's heart simply stops beating and there is no explanation.

Counseling Makes a Difference

For many interpreters, pregnancy and infant loss encounters are heartbreaking. They take a physical and emotional toll. The good news is that professional interpreters make a difference in patient outcomes. According to research by experts at Drexel University, patients who receive appropriate counseling before, during, and after a loss are less likely to develop psychological pathologies such as anxiety and depression.

LEP Patients Need You

Since many LEP patients only have medical insurance coverage during pregnancy and for a limited time afterward, getting the proper counseling during and shortly after a loss is crucial. Even though the experience may be taxing for you, as an interpreter, your work is making a difference in that patient's life.

“I’m sorry for you loss.” (supportive comment)

vs.

“Don’t worry you can have another baby.” (unhelpful comment)

Supportive vs. Unhelpful Comments

Good counseling makes a difference because trained professionals know what to say. They are aware of which comments patients are more likely to find supportive and which can be unhelpful or hurtful. For more examples, visit [Drexel University's module](http://Drexel University) on the medical and psychological aspects of pregnancy loss.



Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness