

Sharon O'Sullivan Vandermerwe B.A., Dip. Biochem.
Medical & Life Sciences | Scientific | Technical | Regulated Content
Translator | Editor | Proofreader | QA

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Profile

Specialist medical and life sciences translator, editor and back translator working from Dutch, German, and Flemish into English, with a particular focus on medical, pharmaceutical, clinical, healthcare, patient-facing and consumer healthcare documentation. My work includes medical records, clinical documentation, pharmaceutical texts, patient information materials, healthcare questionnaires, consumer and patient responses, regulatory-style product information, medical device documentation, back translations, revision, proofreading, terminology review and quality assurance.

I have extensive experience producing clear, accurate and carefully researched English translations for medical and life sciences clients, with strong attention to terminology, consistency, register, target-market conventions and patient comprehension. I work in both UK English and US English, depending on client, regulatory and end-user requirements.

I am especially interested in supporting clients with life sciences translation, revision, back translation, back translation review, patient-facing materials, readability-oriented work and linguistic validation workflows, including reconciliation and terminology/quality review stages.

Language combinations

- **Dutch into English (UK & US)**
Netherlands source variant
- **German into English (UK & US)**
Germany, Austria and Switzerland source variants
- **Flemish / Belgian Dutch into English**
Belgian source variant

Core Specialisations

Medical & Healthcare Translation

- Medical records and hospital documentation
- Discharge summaries
- Emergency department notes
- Operative reports
- Radiology, pathology and laboratory reports
- Obstetrics and gynaecology records
- Oncology, cardiology, pulmonology, neurology and orthopaedic documentation
- Specialist correspondence and referral letters
- Patient-facing medical information
- Medical certificates and clinical statements

Pharmaceutical & Regulatory-Style Content

- Summary of Product Characteristics-style content
- Patient Information Leaflet-style content
- Package leaflet and labelling-related materials
- QRD/EMA/Swissmedic-style patient and professional information
- Adverse-effect and warning sections
- Dosage, administration and contraindication wording
- Terminology review and consistency checking

Clinical Research & Life Sciences

- Clinical trial-related documentation
- Patient-facing study materials
- Questionnaires and patient-reported outcome materials
- Consumer healthcare responses, patient feedback and free-text responses
- Back translation and back translation review
- Linguistic and terminology review
- Reconciliation support
- Translatability and readability-oriented review

Medical Devices & Technical-Medical Content

- Medical device documentation
- Instructions for use
- Safety and operating instructions
- Technical-medical user-facing content
- Terminology and consistency review
- Interface/screenshot language review where applicable

Services Offered

- Translation / Revision / Proofreading
- Editing
- Back translation
- Back translation review
- Reconciliation support
- Linguistic validation support
- Cultural adaptation review
- Readability-oriented review of patient information materials
- Terminology review
- Quality assurance review
- Medical and life sciences copy review

Key strengths

- Strong medical terminology research skills
- Careful handling of source ambiguity and abbreviations
- Clear, accurate and idiomatic English target texts
- Ability to adapt register for patients, clinicians, regulators or technical users
- Excellent attention to consistency and terminology
- Experience with both translation and review roles
- Strong quality assurance mindset
- Reliable communication and professional confidentiality
- Comfortable with complex, sensitive and highly specialised medical material

Professional memberships

EMWA (European Medical Writers Association)
UK Society of Authors: Translation Associate

Professional experience

Freelance Translator, Editor and Proofreader

Ireland / South Africa, 2012-present

Typical projects include:

- German and Dutch medical records translated into English for clinical, legal, insurance or administrative use
- Hospital reports, operative notes, radiology findings, pathology results and specialist medical correspondence
- Pharmaceutical and patient information materials requiring careful alignment with UK or US English conventions
- Back translations of patient-facing medical questionnaires and clinical materials
- Review of translations by other linguists for accuracy, terminology, style and consistency
- Quality assurance of medical translation projects, including terminology harmonisation and issue reporting
- Medical device and technical-medical documentation, including instructions, safety information and user-facing content

Availability

Available for freelance collaboration in:

- Medical and life sciences translation
- Pharmaceutical and regulatory-style content
- Back translation
- Revision and proofreading
- Linguistic validation support
- Patient-facing material review
- Medical device documentation
- Terminology and quality assurance review
- Structured tables, forms, and template-based documents

Education

- BA Degree (English, German and Linguistics)
- Dip. Biochem (Centre of Excellence UK)
- H.Dip. Project Management
- Multiple specialist subject certificates (ProZ)

CAT Tools / skills

Phrase TMS / Memsource

memoQ

Microsoft Word

Microsoft Excel

Xbench

Terminology databases and client-specific glossaries

Track Changes and structured QA workflows

PDF review and formatting checks

Working style

- Careful and context-sensitive translator with a strong revision mindset.
- Exact formatting, terminology consistency, and client-specific preferences.
- Comfortable collaborating within established workflows and quality processes.
- Reliable communicator for long-term freelance cooperation.

Confidentiality

I regularly work with confidential medical, clinical and private client documentation, and treat all client materials in strict confidence. I am happy to work under NDA, and follow all client-specific confidentiality, data protection and secure file-handling requirements.