

Legal & Regulatory Reasons For Medical Interpretation

1. **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** requires recipients of Federal financial assistance to take reasonable steps to make their programs, services, and activities accessible by eligible persons with limited English proficiency.
2. **Section 1557** is the civil rights provision of the **Affordable Care Act of 2010**. It prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in certain health programs and activities. The prohibition on national origin discrimination requires covered entities to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to each individual with limited English proficiency who their program might serve.
3. The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** requires covered entities must provide aids and services when needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.
4. **The Joint Commissions** sets standards for effective communication, cultural competence, and patient- and family-centered care. This includes identifying and addressing patient communication needs.

Sources

- [Washington State Health Care Authority](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [The Joint Commission](#)