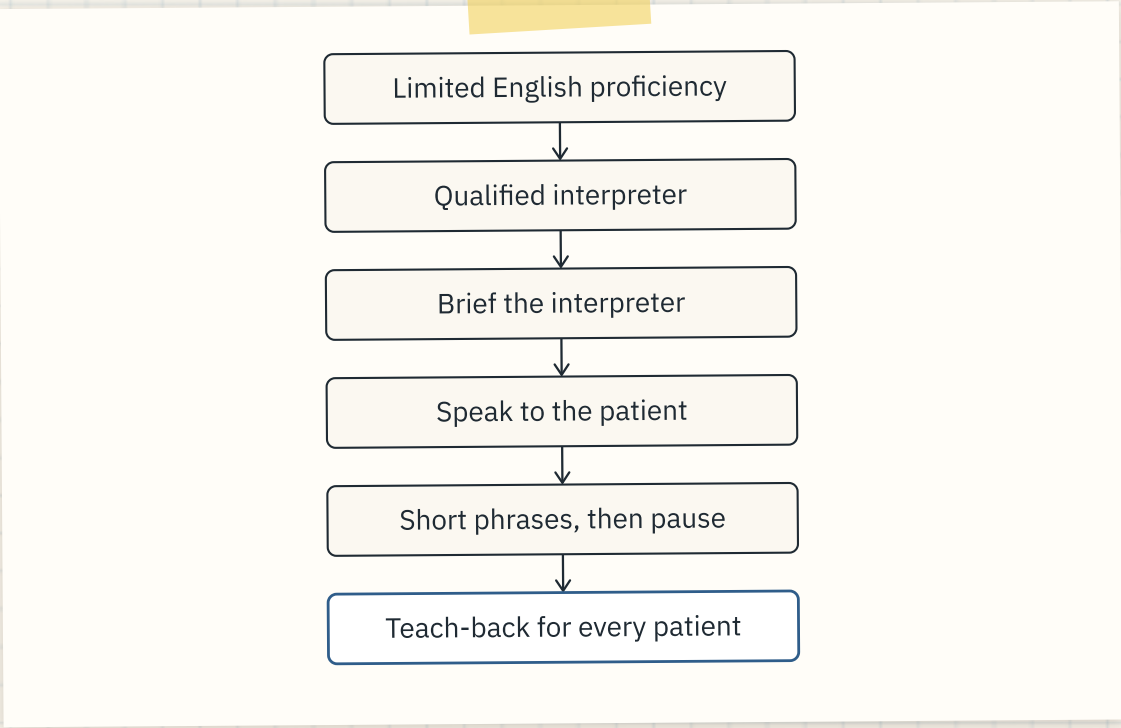
Interpreters and teach-back

Language barrier and health literacy are two problems



Step by step

1. Qualified interpreter; brief them first
2. Speak to the patient, not the interpreter
3. Short phrases; pause for translation
4. Plain language, small chunks
5. Teach-back after each chunk

Option	Verdict
Qualified interpreter (in person, video, phone)	Use this
Family member	Poor choice
Untrained bilingual staff	Poor choice
Child	Avoid above all
Voice app	Not a substitute

Who interprets?

Rule of thumb

A nod tells you nothing; ask for it back

Interpreter solves language; teach-back checks understanding of both

Exam traps

- Fluency is not qualification: family, children and untrained staff are informal interpreters.
- "Do you understand?" invites a nod; ask the patient to say it back.
- An app is not a substitute for a qualified interpreter.

Medical interpreter and teach-back: language and health literacy

Video, written lesson, practice question and sources: medservatory.com/usmle-step-2-ck/ethics-law-patient-safety/medical-interpreter-teach-back-limited-english-proficiency-health-literacy

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