BRIDGING THE GAP: EXPLAINING THE PA ROLE TO SPANISH-SPEAKING MEXICAN FAMILIES

A Personal and Informative Journey

OUERUIEW

Introduction

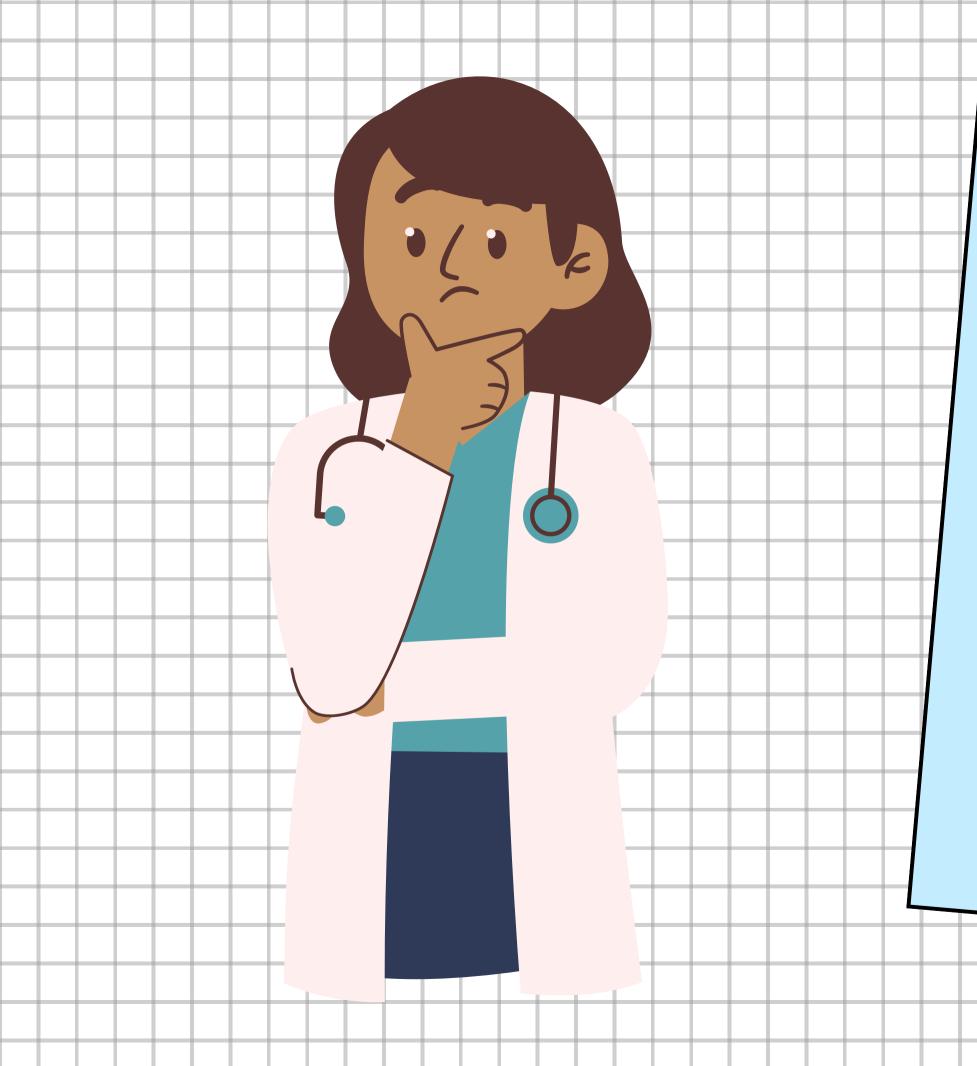
Healthcare System in Mexico

What is a PA?

Strategies Explaining a PA

Challenges in Translation

Reflection and Lessons Learned



INTRODUCTION Why this topic?

As a first-generation Mexican college student, I have often struggled to explain the PA profession to my immigrant family. Not only is there no direct translation for "Physician Assistant", but the profession itself doesn't exist in Mexico or many other non-English-speaking countries.

WHAT IS A PA?

Physician Assistant

"PAs (physican associates/physician assistants) are licensed clinicians who practice medicineevery specialty and setting. Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professions, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team based medical practice."

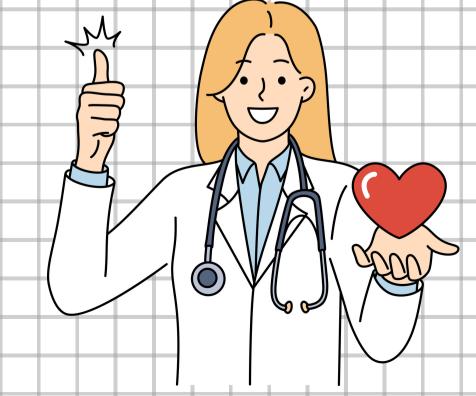
-AAPA

Asociado Medico

"Los PA (asociados médicos) son profesionales clínicos licenciados que practican la medicina en todas las especialidades y entornos.

Profesionales de la salud de confianza, rigurosamente formados y capacitados, los Asociado Médicos se dedican a ampliar el acceso a la atención y a transformar la salud y el bienestar a través de una práctica médica centrada en el paciente y basada en el trabajo en equipo"

-AAPA





CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATION

Main Challenge

There is no direct equivalent to a PA in Mexico. Terms like "Asistente Medico" or "Enfermero" fail to fully capture the scope and responsibilities of the role.

Tips

- use simple language
- provide clear explanation (consider writing down on a note first)
- use culturally relevant examples to ensure understanding
- compare to familiar roles
 - visual aids
- be patient and open to further explain things
- don't need to specialize compared to doctor

SIMDIFIED

The AAPA's definition in Spanish doesn't consider the comprehension challenges faced by immigrant parents, who often struggle with understanding complex or technical language used in such definitions.

Los Asociados Medicos (PA, en ingles) son profesionales de salud avanzada que diagnostican enfermedades, desarollan y controlan planes de tratamiento, recetan medicamentos y, a menudo, son el proveedor principal de atencion medica de los pacientes.

@physicianassociatelatinohealth



HEALTHCARE SYSTEMIN MEXICO

Importance

It is important to understand the healthcare system in Mexico to identify the gaps that may confuse our families about the PA profession and help bridge their understanding effectively.

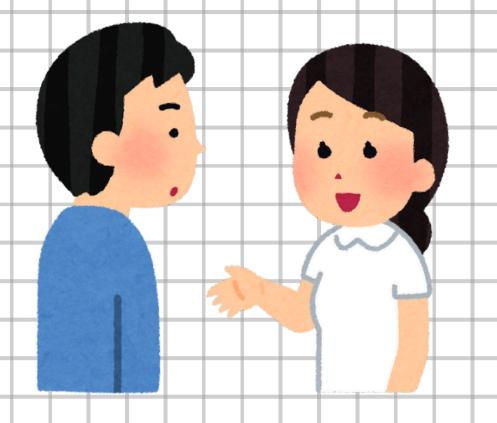
Healthcare System

Mexico's healthcare system relies on public services like IMSS (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social/Mexican Institue of Social Security) and private clinics. The focus is on doctors, nurses, and specialists.

Why do you think developing countries like Mexico have an emphasis on private clinics and not so much on public services?



STRATEGIES EXPLAINING A PA



Approaches

Using a relatable analogy can greatly help your parents understand. For example: "It's like a doctor's right hand, but they can also diagnose and treat patients independently"

Enfoques

Por ejemplo: "Es como la mano derecha del doctor, pero tambien pueden diagnosticar y tratar pacientes de manera independiente"

REFLECTION WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Showcases cultural significance

Promotes understanding and communication

Lingustic awarness in helathcare

Emphasizes importance of bilingual PAs

Connects/Builds community

Family feels important and valued

