

## S06-4 'Suggestions for Paraphrasing Medical Terms at Hospital' By National Institute for Japanese Language

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In March 2009, Committee on *Byoin no Kotoba* (medical terminologies at hospital) at National Institute for Japanese Language (NIJLA) presented 'Suggestions for Paraphrasing Medical Terms at Hospital' (also published as a book, *Byoin no Kotoba wo wakariyasuku: Kufu no Teian* from Keiso Shobo). Patient-oriented medicine is an important prerequisite for constructing both trust- and cooperation-relationship between patients and physicians. Problems are, however, that the difficulties in terminology in medicine and medical care prevent patients and their families from sharing information with their physicians, and from choosing an optimal medical treatment. This problem is attributed to the difficulty of the terminology itself, and to the medical communication. So as to tackle these problems, NIJLA established a committee on '*Byoin no Kotoba*,' which incorporate both medicine and linguistics, and aimed to make their suggestions for physicians to improve their skill to explain their medical treatments to their patients. Basic plans of the committee are as follows:

1. Propose to the physicians how to paraphrase terminologies in medicine and medical care when physicians give their explanation to the patients and their families.
2. Conduct empirical studies to explore the reason why the terminologies in medicine and medical care do not make sense to the patients. Based on these findings, the paraphrasing in accordance with the reasons is categorized.
3. Raise 57 words from each category to show specific paraphrasing.
4. Process of the selection of the terms, and their description are made scientifically through objective survey data toward both patient and physicians, and through the discussions at the committee.

With these suggestions, it is highly expected that both patient and physicians work as a medical team, share the medical information, and decide their medical treatments. It also helps both patients and physicians to establish better partnerships. The committee received about 900 responses when the interim report was made to the public, and 97% of the physicians reported that these suggestions are helpful.