

Documentation Guidelines for Physical Disabilities and Systemic Illnesses

This section includes, but is not limited to: Mobility Impairments, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Chemical Sensitivities, Spinal Cord Injuries, Cancer, AIDS, Muscular Dystrophy, and Spina Bifida.

Any physical disability and systemic illness are considered to be in the medical domain and require the expertise of a physician, including a neurologist, psychiatrist, or other medical specialist with experience and expertise in the area for which accommodations are being requested. The following guidelines are provided to assist the service provider in collaborating with each student to determine appropriate accommodations. Documentation serves as a foundation that legitimizes a student's request for appropriate accommodations. Recommended documentation includes:

1. A clear statement of the medical diagnosis of the physical disability or systemic illness.
2. Documentation for eligibility must reflect the current impact the physical disability or systemic illness has on the student's functioning. (The age of acceptable documentation is dependent upon the disabling condition, the status of the student, and the student's request for accommodations.) Disabilities that are sporadic or degenerative may require more frequent evaluation.
3. A summary of assessment procedures and evaluation instruments used to make the diagnosis, including evaluation results and standardized scores if applicable.
4. A description of present symptoms that meet the criteria for diagnosis.
5. Medical information relating to the student's needs, to include the impact of medication on the student's ability to meet the demands of the postsecondary environment.
6. A statement of the functional impact or limitations of the disability on learning or other major life activity and the degree to which it impacts the individual in the learning context for which accommodations are being requested.

Further assessment by an appropriate professional may be required if co-existing learning disabilities or other disabling conditions are indicated. The

student and the Assistant Director of AARC will collaborate regarding accommodations.