

Documentation Guidelines for Temporary Medical Conditions

Temporary medical conditions are not covered under Section 504 nor the American with Disabilities Act. However, the Student Disability Access Office (SDAO) will assist students who experience a temporary disabling medical condition by providing accommodations on a case-by-case basis and for a definitive period of time. Student should be aware that some conditions that are considered temporary in nature may become chronic. In such instances, students are encouraged to contact the SDAO and seek eligibility for long term accommodations.

The following guidelines are designed to provide students and professional diagnosticians with a common understanding and knowledge base of the components of documentation which are necessary to validate the existence of a temporary medical condition, its impact on the student's educational performance, and support(s) that may be necessary in a post-secondary setting.

Qualifications of the Medical Provider

The professional conducting the evaluation must be a qualified treatment provider and recommend appropriate accommodations for adult students. The documentation must include the name, title, and professional credentials of the evaluator, including information about licensure and/or specialization.

Diagnoses of a Temporary Medical Condition documented by family members will not be accepted even when the family members are otherwise qualified by virtue of training and licensure/certification. All reports should be in English, typed or printed on professional letterhead, dated, signed, and otherwise legible. SDAO reserves the right to receive the documentation directly from the evaluator.

Necessary Components of the Medical Documentation

- Verification regarding the nature of the condition
- Expected duration of the condition
- A description of the accommodation(s) deemed necessary
- The assessment or verification of disability must reflect the student's current level of disability, and shall be no older than 60 days.

Since SDAO supports are based upon the assessment of the current impact of the temporary medical condition on the student's functioning in the academic setting, medical reports must address the individual's need for support. If the documentation is inadequate in scope or content, or is not relevant to the individual's temporary medical condition and need for accommodations, additional information may be required.

Confidentiality

All information obtained in diagnostic and medical reports will be maintained and used in accordance with applicable confidentiality requirements.

Submitting Documentation and Questions

Documentation should be mailed to the attention of the Student Disability Access Office, Box 90142, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708 or faxed to (919) 668-3977. Questions should be directed to (919) 668-1267 or sdao@duke.edu.