Documentation Guidelines - Chronic Medical Condition

Each evaluation must be completed by a qualified professional, current (within the last six months), and include historical information, a specific diagnosis of disability, and a rationale for recommendations.

Chronic Medical Condition – Documenting as a Disability

Students requesting accommodations based on a medical condition must provide documentation from a professional who has undergone comprehensive training and has relevant experience in differential diagnosis. The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 expanded the definition of major life activities to include thinking, sleeping, concentrating, eating, stooping, bending, standing, and communicating, which will likely result in the identification of more students with these disorders. The Act does not cover conditions that are likely to resolve within six months or less. However, the Act includes cyclical conditions, and the disability determination should be made based on consideration of when the condition is active:

- A recent evaluation or updated assessment, preferably within the past six months, is needed due to the changing nature of medical conditions. Include how long the clinician has been treating the individual

- A specific, current diagnosis indicates the nature, frequency, and severity of the symptoms upon which the diagnosis was predicated. A diagnosis without an explicit listing of current symptoms is not sufficient.

- Prescribed medications, dosages, and schedules that may influence the learning environment and types of accommodations, including any possible side effects.

- This is an integrated summary that indicates the substantial limitations to major life activities posed by the disability, describes the extent to which these limitations would impact the academic context for which accommodations are being requested, suggests how the specific effects of the condition may be accommodated, and states how the recommended accommodations mediate the effects.