



## Required Prescription & Letter of Medical Necessity

(Give a copy of this to your Physician) (AZG Fax # 1-866-674-3186)

For acceptance into our program, each client is required to have a prescription for a service dog based on medical necessity along with a letter from their doctor showing:

- The client's medical diagnosis,
- A medical recommendation for a service dog that is medically necessary and will benefit the applicant.
- Appropriate coding for the medical condition (CPT®, ICD-9 and HCPCS, or equivalent)
- Appropriate insurance billing/coding numbers for the treatment method (Example: Durable Medical Equipment code, mental health treatment coding, etc.)
- And other pertinent information as described below.

### General types of service dogs and a brief definition on the terminology:

**Service Dogs:** defined in the law as a dog that is individually trained to help someone with a physical task (like retrieving something for you or alerting someone when you have a problem, repetitive or self-injurious behavior, or other common signs of Autism or physical impairment.) Therapy or dogs placed because of emotional support or for certain types of anxiety (outside PTSD) are not allowed under Federal ADA statues and definitions as service dogs.

- **Autism Service Dog-** Are just like what its name is, they are trained dogs that provide assistance with many tasks such as interrupting repetitive (stimming) behaviors, self-injurious behaviors, communication delays, alerting to dangerous situations or physical reduction of cortisol levels (measurement of stress)
- **Guide Dogs-** Dogs trained to assist those who are partially, or completely blind or otherwise visually impaired. They are trained to help the individual navigate their environment safely with no additional assistance, retrieve dropped objects, and keep them safe of environmental dangers.
- **Hearing Dogs-** Dogs trained to alert their clients to environmental sounds or conversations such as alarms, knocking on doors, babies crying, telephone ringing, someone approaching from behind them, or to follow conversation so that the hearing impaired person can read lips easier.
- **Medical Alert Dogs-** Dogs trained to alert their clients, trigger an alarm, or alert others nearby to a certain defined medical condition. This includes dogs trained for Epilepsy/Seizures, P.O.T.S/Syncope, Diabetic Alert, environmental allergies (such as latex or nuts), and many more conditions.
- **Mobility Assistance-** Dogs trained to assist with task for clients with the following conditions Multiple Sclerosis , Cerebral Palsy, Fibromyalgia, Paralysis (various), Stroke, Prosthetic limbs, Muscular Dystrophy, and many more. These dogs are trained to retrieve dropped items, bracing for stabilization of balance, triggering various buttons such as elevator button or light switches and triggering a medical alert device to bring help.
- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)-** Dogs trained to assist with the challenges relating to this condition such as interrupting undesirable behaviors, retrieving medications & water when having an episode, alerting to and blocking people that get too close to the individual, and assisting with the social anxiety relating to the condition.



## Required Prescription & Letter of Medical Necessity Continued...

Prescription must include the following information:

- 1) Patient Information
  - a. Diagnosis
  - b. Patients Name
  - c. Age and gender
  - d. Last exam date
- 2) Physician Information
  - a. Name
  - b. Title
  - c. Clinic/Hospital
  - d. Phone Number
- 3) Recommendation on the type of dog (see above) that would benefit the client.
- 4) All appropriate condition and medical billing codes.

### Example of written prescription:

Summer Ville Heath Services  
464 S. Bordsville  
San Jose, CA 95645  
693-123-4567/ Fax 693-123-8610

Patience Name John Doe Date 06/07/2012

Patient Address 2330 Nowhere Street, San Jose CA 95634 Allergies Walnuts & Aspirin

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Rx:

*John Doe has Autism and would benefit from a Service Dog to interrupt stimming and self-injurious behaviors in addition to alerting to potentially dangerous situations and is a medical necessity. (CPT Code: 90899)*

John E. Smith ID #: 965782160      John E. Smith M.D.  
Physician Name and DEA # or 9 Digit Identifier      Physician Signature  
(Print or Stamp)



## Required Prescription & Letter of Medical Necessity Continued...

### Letter of medical necessity must include the following information:

*(Clearly printed)*

- 1) Patient Information
  - a. Diagnosis
  - b. Patients Name
  - c. Age and gender
  - d. Last exam date
- 2) Equipment Needs
  - a. Medication patient is on and any equipment currently being using (wheelchair, cane, etc.)
  - b. What type of service dog recommending, why recommending, what task/ skills do you think a service dog could assistant the patient.
- 3) Physician Information
  - a. Name
  - b. Title
  - c. Clinic/Hospital
  - d. Phone Number
- 4) All appropriate condition and medical billing codes.

### Example of Letter of Medical Necessity:

Summer Ville Heath Services  
464 S. Bordsville  
San Jose , CA 85645  
693-123-4567/ Fax 693-123-8610

06/07/2014

To whom it may concern,

I John E. Smith, MD her by prescribe a service dog to assist Jane Doe. Jane Doe is a 20 year old female that was last examined on July 25, 2008 and diagnosed with borderline Myotonic muscular dystrophy. Myotonic muscular dystrophy DM2 (MMD) is where muscles have difficulty relaxing. Jane Doe is currently showing the following symptoms of MMD : muscle weakness and wasting (where the muscles shrink over time), and mild heart problems.

Currently Jane Doe is prescribed Sertraline (Zoloft) for the depression, patacetamol (Tylenol) for pain associated with MMD, & multi vitamin supplements. On Jane Doe's good physical & mental health days, during this time Jane Doe is a highly functioning member of society, but her MMD will gradually affect her more over the next 5-8 years, become more dilapidated, requiring her take frequent rest and eventually confine her to a bed and a oxygen machine. Through the assistance of a service dog, the dog will be able to pick up items Ms. Doe dropped; alert someone if she is having any problems or if she fell out of her electronic wheelchair. Task such as these will greatly benefit her daily life and is a medical necessity. CPT Code: 90899; Durable Medical Equipment Code: 50667 & 68446.

Sincerely,

*John E. Smith, MD*