



PAWS FOR LIFE

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 Federal 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 (excluding PTSD) are not allowed under Federal ADA statues and definitions as service dogs.

- ***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 <u>John Doe</u>	Date <u>06/07/2012</u>
Patient Address <u>2330 Nowhere Street, San Jose CA 95634</u> Allergies <u>Walnuts & Aspirin</u>	
Rx: <p style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive;">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)</p>	
<u>John E. Smith ID #: 965782160</u> <small>Physician Name and DEA # or 9 Digit Identifier (Print or Stamp)</small>	<u>John E. Smith, M.D.</u> <small>Physician Signature</small>

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 patent 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 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Jane Doe is currently showing the following symptoms of PTSD: agitation, irritability, hostility, hypervigilance, self-destructive behavior, social isolation, flashbacks, fear, severe anxiety out in public, and insomnia. This s a result of their military service.

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 can be a functioning member of society, but on normal or bad days, the effects of her PTSD will cause her to lose normal functionality and can degrade into self-harm. Through the assistance of a service dog, the dog will be able to interrupt non-responsive behaviors due to flashbacks, alert a nearby person for help; retrieve medication; and respond to various alarms in order to wake up the client who has taken medication, along with various other tasks. 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