



Caltech Accessibility Services for Students

Phone: 626-590-8042

Email: cass@caltech.edu

Documentation Guidelines for Temporary Medical Conditions

Temporary medical conditions refer to nonrecurring medical conditions of short duration such as a broken leg, mononucleosis or appendicitis (generally six months or less). Although postsecondary institutions are not required by law to accommodate students with temporary medical conditions, it is Caltech's general practice to facilitate accommodations that are reasonable and may be necessary on a short-term basis.

Documentation from students with temporary medical condition must demonstrate the current functional impact of the disability on major life activities (e.g., walking, seeing, hearing, learning, caring for oneself, etc.) and provide current evidence to support the requested academic or other accommodations.

Professional Who Can Provide Documentation

- Professionals providing documentation must have comprehensive training and experience in the relevant specialty and hold appropriate licensure and/or certification.
- Documentation from a family member or someone with a personal relationship with the student (although they may be qualified by training and licensure) is not acceptable because of professional and ethical considerations.
- Documentation must be in English, typed on official letterhead with the title and credentials of the professional writing the report, dated, and signed.

If there is a question about the choice of the professional to provide the documentation, students should contact a staff member at CASS.

Documentation Required

- For temporary medical conditions, include the date of the original diagnosis along with a report of the current impact of the condition.

Contents of Documentation

Documentation must be based on a thorough clinical evaluation and include a narrative discussion of the following elements:

1. Specific medical diagnosis
2. Specific objective measures and tests used to substantiate the medical condition
3. The expected typical progression with a timeline for complete recovery
4. Description of any treatment that the student is undergoing or has undergone related to the disability
5. Current functional limitations and probable impact of medical condition in a university setting
6. For any recommended accommodations, rationale that is logically related to functional limitation(s), based on evidence from the clinical evaluation (i.e. why it is needed and how will it reduce the impact of the current functional limitations)