



Things to Think About!

Medical Sufficiency Letters Simplified

By Linda Jorgensen

One of the more common questions we get from Military folks is, "What is a Medical Sufficiency Statement/Letter and how do I get one for my dependant?"

Simply put, a statement, or letter, of *medical* sufficiency addresses the *medical* status of an individual. These letters, or statements, must be updated on a regular basis by the individual's Primary Care Physician. This letter is then submitted as proof of a dependant's "Medical Sufficiency" when applying for an incapacitation status, favorable dependency, ID cards and other benefits and services.

Medical Sufficiency Statement

A letter of Medical Sufficiency is pretty straight forward. It is a formal statement written in narrative form by an individual's Primary Care Physician regarding that individual's current medical condition. This letter should contain the following information:

- Individual's name, birth date and age
- current diagnosis
- date of onset of the disability (example: at birth, age 6 months, post accident which occurred ____-____-20____ etc.
- the individual's current physical and cognitive status
- functional level (list what the individual CANNOT do or needs assistance doing)
- current treatments
- mobility status, if applicable (ambulatory with walker/crutch/cane, uses a manual or power wheelchair, etc.)
- prognosis for recovery
- prognosis for ability to support self in the future
- any other statements regarding the individual's current medical status which may be deemed necessary

A letter written by a physician from a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) should be submitted on the approved DoD form as dictated by each branch of service. These forms should be readily available to medical staff at each treatment facility.

A civilian physician's letter should be written on approved letterhead and contain full contact information to include address and phone numbers of both the physician and the medical facility, if appropriate.

Four Most Common Mistakes

- Failure to allow enough time for your PCM to dictate and print a letter. Depending on the facility or office this process can take up to 3 weeks.
- Failure to submit a complete letter. Make sure all the detail you need is included the first time around.
- Failure to include the date.
- Lack of signature. Be sure the letter has been properly signed by the individual who originated it.

Letters of Medical Sufficiency are a vital part of the application process for Dependency Determinations, ID cards and other benefit programs. Failure to submit a complete letter can derail your entire application process. By submitting a current and accurate letter you'll be able to speed the process and obtain the services you need.

One Last Tip: If a specialized letter or set of forms is required for a specific action, KEEP THE ORIGINALS! You'll most likely need them later.

If there is anything that is not discussed in our newsletters and you would like to see it discussed, or you would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, please contact us at snrproject@hotmail.com