Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

is currently being treated in the Pediatric Rheumatology and Pediatric Ophthalmology Clinics at \*\*\*. This student has been diagnosed with \*\*\*chronic uveitis\*\*\*. Uveitis is an autoimmune disease of the middle layer of the eye (the uvea). Symptoms of eye inflammation may include decreased vision, redness, pain, problems with glare, seeing black spots called “floaters”, and sensitivity to light. However, approximately half of affected children, do not have any symptoms to warn them of disease activity, warranting frequent examinations once the initial diagnosis is made. Severe cases of uveitis can result in cataracts, glaucoma, retinal problems, and other complications, all of which can lead to significant vision loss and even blindness.

The student’s symptoms can fluctuate unpredictably. There may be periods of time when he or she experiences increasingly severe symptoms, making it difficult to engage in daily activities. He or she may read normal print one month, but need adaptations during a “flare” (exacerbation) of disease. As providers, we hope to decrease pain, control symptoms, and preserve visual function using medical, and if necessary, surgical treatments. Medications can be topical, in the form of eye drops, or systemic, taken either orally, by injection, or intravenously. A typical treatment plan involves frequent clinic visits for follow-up and evaluation.

Both the symptoms experienced by the student and the necessary treatment may interfere with his or her ability to attend and to participate in school. Many of our patients and their families find it helpful to develop a 504 Plan or an Individualized Education Plan with school officials to address their special needs. Depending on the student’s specific needs, a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and/or orientation and mobility occupational therapist may be needed. Please consider implementing these adaptations prior to a period where the child may have a disease flare, so that the child will have the best chance of meeting educational goals during difficult times.

Also, please consider the emotional aspects of coping with a chronic illness and the impact that might have on the student and \*\*\* his/her \*\*\* family. The student’s abilities can be affected not only by their obvious medical needs, but also by the more subtle emotional and social issues. The student may worry about “fitting in” or “feeling different” than peers and may worry about losing vision or “going blind”. The following page contains additional information you may need to know about this student, examples of symptoms commonly experienced by children with this diagnosis, and some accommodations that may prove helpful. Hopefully, we can work together to balance the student’s medical and educational needs.

If our staff can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please ensure that a parent or legal guardian has provided authorization for school officials and [\*\*\*Insert hospital\*\*\*] staff to discuss patient information. Please contact our [\*\*\*social worker \*\*\*] at (\*\*\*) \*\*\*-\*\*\*\* with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

UVEITIS FACT SHEET:

Some of the symptoms children with uveitis may experience are listed below. Also listed are some accommodations that could be included in a 504 Plan or IEP. Please talk with your student to fully assess his/her individual school needs. For children with a visual acuity less than 20/40, scotomas (or “blind spots”), visual field loss or loss of contrast sensitivity, we recommend that a multi-disciplinary visual rehabilitation team that includes an ophthalmologist, Teacher of the Visually Impaired and occupational therapist be performed to assess the need for adaptations as per the American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practice Patterns. <https://www.aao.org/preferred-practice-pattern/vision-rehabilitation-ppp-2017>

SYMPTOMS

* Ocular pain and redness
* Headaches
* Sensitivity to light (photophobia)
* Problems with glare
* Vision changes
* Medication side effects
* Emotional aspects of dealing with a chronic disease

CONSIDERATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS:

* + - Uveitis is not an “obvious” illness and fluctuating vision is common.
    - Students will have to miss class for frequent medical appointments, some of which may be urgent.
    - Students may need to take prescribed medicines such as eye drops during school hours.
    - Some medications may interfere with vision (dilating drops) and schoolwork, assignments, and examination schedule may need to be adjusted.
    - Student may need to wear hat or sunglasses to decrease light sensitivity
    - Extra time to complete assignments and tests
    - Permission to have a water bottle in class and to be excused to use the restroom
    - See the nurse for eye drop administration
    - See the school counselor as needed
    - May need sports goggles in gym and for recess
    - May be unable to participate in contact sports in some cases

Depending on the level of visual impairment, the following may be considered:

* Assignment of a teacher of the visually impaired (TVI)
* Have reading/note taking assistance
* Orientation and mobility assessment
* Preferential seating 5-7 feet from classroom instruction
* Electronic print magnification or recorded materials

PLEASE ACCOMMODATE FOR ADDITIONAL NEEDS ENDORSED BELOW:

­\_\_\_\_\_ This student is on immunosuppressant medications making them more susceptible to contracting infectious illnesses.

- Please notify the family of any infectious disease outbreaks at school so they can consult us to determine need for school excuse or prophylactic treatment.

- We suggest they receive all regularly scheduled vaccinations **EXCEPT** live vaccines. Live vaccines include Varicella (chicken pox), MMR (measles, mumps, Rubella), RotaTeq (Rotavirus), Smallpox, Influenza nasal mist, and Zoster.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please see the following resources for more information on uveitis:

1. Uveitis: A Guide for Teachers and Parents: A free print copy can be requested.

<http://www.uveitis.org/patients/support/teachers/>

1. American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practices for Visual Rehabilitation:

<https://www.aao.org/preferred-practice-pattern/vision-rehabilitation-ppp-2017>

3. Services for patients who are blind or visually impaired:

<http://www.afb.org/directory.aspx>

<https://www.tsbvi.edu/tagged-resources>

<https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/o/ophthalmology/services/vision-rehabilitation>