

Examples of Acceptable Language to use in IEPs for documentation of PCA services:

Head Banging	Hitting	Biting	Burning oneself
Self-poking	Stabbing	Ingesting foreign substances/objects	Pulling hair
Homicidal/suicidal threats	Pinching	Scratching	Kicking
Breaking windows, lamps, furniture	Tearing clothes	Setting fires	Using tools or objects to damage property
Increased irritability	Socially offensive behaviors	Repetitive behaviors	Throws objects
Harms self	Increased outbursts	Hyperactivity	Inattentive behaviors
Impulsive behaviors	Physical altercations with peers	Verbal and physical threats	Destruction of property
Harm to others	Spasms	Involuntary movement	Seizure activity
Lack of motor function	Increased negative behavior	Excessive aggressiveness	

Examples of unacceptable language to describe services*:

Needs help with schoolwork	Learning disability	Needs assistance in the classroom	Educational assistance
Help staying on task			

**Paraprofessionals may be assisting with these tasks, but they are not billable services because they are not medically necessary.*

Examples of Care Plan Descriptions

Due to Sally's congenital defects, she needs a PCA to provide partial physical assistance daily, with personal care tasks including the following ADLs: mobility, eating, and toileting. Sally has very limited mobility and requires the PCA to use a transfer belt when transferring her to and from her wheelchair. During lunch the PCA will assist Sally with hand washing, carrying her food tray, opening milk cartons and cutting up food. PCA will also assist Sally with toileting. The PCA will unfasten and remove clothing, assist with wiping and washing hands. PCA will escort child during transitions throughout the school day. These activities will be supervised by qualified professional.

A para will assist George with his personal care needs. Because of George's cerebral palsy, he has an unsteady gait and needs total physical assistance with mobility both within and outside of the building, including certain transfers related to vehicles or equipment. George must have his food set up and an orthotic applied. He can feed and drink himself with appropriate adapted equipment set up. However, he must be constantly monitored for frequent choking. It is also important for George to maintain good range of all joints through daily stretching. In addition, George has diabetes and must be escorted to the nurse's office to have his glucose taken mid-morning and mid-afternoon. The personal care tasks will be supervised by a qualified professional.

A PCA will meet Jeanie's personal care needs by observing, redirecting and intervening her explosive behavior that often results in head banging or other serious self-injury behaviors. Jeanie is easily provoked and will often hit or kid other children or staff. Jeanie also displays socially inappropriate behaviors and has a history of spitting and swearing at students and teachers when asked to perform simple tasks or when other students want to play with a toy she is playing with. These PCA services will be supervised by a qualified professional.