

October 27, 2023

Auburn University
Office of Accessibility

RE: Ivey F Adams
Date of birth: 5/4/2000

Ivey F Adams has a diagnosis of Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO). NMO is a chronic disease of the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves which causes intermittent relapses that can cause deficits in vision, movement and/or cognition that may need weeks to months for recovery. Ivey is currently relapse-free and is able to walk without assistance, see and hear normally and comprehend course material. However, even when relapses are in good control, people with NMO can experience significant daily fatigue. The fatigue can impact their ability to keep up with daily activities, including schoolwork.

Ivey currently receives monthly intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) infusions as treatment for her NMO. However, common side effects of IVIG therapy include profound sleepiness during the infusion (caused by medications given to prevent anaphylactic reaction). Many of patients receiving IVIG treatment, including Ivey, experience significant headache and malaise for several days after the infusion.

Ivey's last IVIG infusion was on October 17, 2023 which requires 5-6 hours hooked up to an IV plus a two hour drive each way between Auburn and Children's of Alabama.

Ivey took a PRAXIS examination on October 19, before she was completely recovered from her IVIG infusion. I have no doubt that lingering side effects from IVIG infusion impacted her performance on the PRAXIS. I am recommending that she be allowed to re-take that test in 30 days.

NMO and the IVIG treatment for NMO affects Ivey in multiple ways:

- Severity/frequency/duration of symptoms: Ivey has daily mild-moderate fatigue due to NMO
- Effects of medication (monthly IVIG infusions): IVIG infusions can cause transient inflammation around the brain (aseptic meningitis) resulting in headache and mental foggiess and general malaise for several days following the infusion.
- Impact of functional limitations and medications on test taking: Due to post-IVIG side effects, Ivey is not able to perform her best academically for 2-3 days after IVIG.
- Disability-related rationale linked to functional limitations for the requested accommodations: Due to the transient malaise and mental foggiess caused by her IVIG infusions, Ivey should be allowed to retake the PRAXIS test (ideally at least 1 week after IVIG infusion).

Please feel free to contact me in regard to Ivey Adams.

Sincerely,



Jayne M. Ness, MD-PhD
Professor, UAB Department of Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Neurology