

CLIENT SIGNATURE HELP SHEET



This Help Sheet provides information about the impact of Machado Joseph Disease (MJD) on an individual's ability to demonstrate their identity via a signature. It is important to remember that each person with MJD will vary in their ability to sign their name as their disease progresses.

BACKGROUND

The impact of MJD on muscles and coordination is largely a result of the disease's effect on the brain's cerebellum.

One of the noticeable features of damage to the cerebellum is ataxia and includes a progressive loss of coordination, strength and fine motor control, as well as an increase in tremors.


SIGNATURE AS IDENTIFICATION

These features of MJD mean that a person with MJD will gradually become less and less able to sign their signature as a way of identifying themselves to financial institutions, government agencies and other service providers.

Over time their signature will become unrecognisable as their own. A signature may eventually be little more than a mark on the page. This may raise issues for the organisation that needs to identify the person.

This authorisation will remain in effect until this request specifies it to be effective for an additional time period.

I authorise release of my medical records in accordance with understand that I have a right to inspect and receive a copy of photocopy of this consent shall be valid as the original.

● ● ● ● ●
Signature of Client _____ 
Date _____ 7.10.09

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Always carry photo id
2. Carry a letter stating the diagnosis of MJD
3. Carry this help sheet
4. Get PINs and passwords where possible

Other ideas to consider:

1. Update signature with financial institutions and on photo id more regularly (eg. annually)
2. Have a photograph taken signing an id document with the document in the photo to show the comparison with the new signature, the photo having a date stamp
3. MJDF staff member to sign a statutory declaration saying that they witnessed the client signing, can verify their identity and take a photo as per point 2 above.



4. Considering appointing a trusted person as a Power-of-Attorney to be able to either sign on the individual's behalf or verify the individual's identity in person.
5. If having issues accessing photo ID, the CBA has an ATSI identity form which can be signed by a community elder.

Who can I talk to if I have questions or concerns?

MJD Foundation staff

Phone: 1300-584-122

Email: libby.massey@mjd.org.au

Your Health clinic doctors, nurses and health workers.