Accommodation and Compliance Series: Employees with Parkinson's Disease

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Funded by a contract with the Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor
Preface

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JAN does not endorse or recommend any products or services mentioned in this publication. Although every effort is made to update resources, JAN encourages contacting product manufacturers/vendors and service providers directly to ensure that they meet the intended purposes. This guarantees that the most up-to-date information is obtained.

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JAN’S Accommodation and Compliance Series

Introduction

JAN’s Accommodation and Compliance Series is designed to help employers determine effective accommodations and comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Each publication in the series addresses a specific medical condition and provides information about the condition, ADA information, accommodation ideas, and resources for additional information.

The Accommodation and Compliance Series is a starting point in the accommodation process and may not address every situation. Accommodations should be made on a case by case basis, considering each employee’s individual limitations and accommodation needs. Employers are encouraged to contact JAN to discuss specific situations in more detail.

For information on assistive technology and other accommodation ideas, visit JAN’s Searchable Online Accommodation Resource (SOAR) at https://askjan.org/soar.

Information about Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a chronic, slowly progressive neurological condition. PD can produce various symptoms such as resting tremors on one side of the body, slowness of movement, stiffness of limbs, gait or balance problems, small cramped handwriting, lack of arm swing, decreased facial expression, lowered voice volume, feelings of depression or anxiety, episodes of feeling "stuck in place" when initiating a step, slight foot drag, increase in dandruff or oily skin, and less frequent blinking and swallowing.

JAN’s Accommodation Solutions: Executive Functioning Deficits is a publication detailing accommodations for individuals with limitations related to executive functioning. These ideas may be helpful in determining accommodations.

Parkinson's Disease and the Americans with Disabilities Act

The ADA does not contain a list of medical conditions that constitute disabilities. Instead, the ADA has a general definition of disability that each person must meet. A person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having an impairment. For more information about how to determine whether a person has a disability under the ADA, see How to Determine Whether a Person Has a Disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA).
Accommodating Employees with Parkinson’s Disease

People with Parkinson’s disease may develop some of the limitations discussed below, but seldom develop all of them. Also, the degree of limitation will vary among individuals. Be aware that not all people with Parkinson’s disease will need accommodations to perform their jobs and many others may only need a few accommodations. The following is only a sample of the possibilities available. Numerous other accommodation solutions may exist.

Questions to Consider:

1. What limitations is the employee experiencing?
2. How do these limitations affect the employee and the employee’s job performance?
3. What specific job tasks are problematic as a result of these limitations?
4. What accommodations are available to reduce or eliminate these problems? Are all possible resources being used to determine possible accommodations?
5. Once accommodations are in place, would it be useful to meet with the employee to evaluate the effectiveness of the accommodations and to determine whether additional accommodations are needed?
6. Do supervisory personnel and employees need training?

Accommodation Ideas:

Limitations

Decreased Stamina/Fatigue

- Accessories for Scooters
- Aide/Assistant/Attendant
- All-Terrain Scooters
- Anti-fatigue Matting
- Elevating Wheelchairs
- Ergonomic and Pneumatic Tools
- Ergonomic Assessments
- Ergonomic Equipment
- Examination and Procedures Chair
- Flexible Schedule
• Head Support for Wheelchairs
• Job Restructuring
• Low Task Chair
• Mechanic’s Seats and Creepers
• Multi-Purpose Carts
• Periodic Rest Breaks
• Scooters
• Stand-lean Stools
• Stools for Cutting Hair
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Walkers
• Wearable Anti-fatigue Matting
• Wheelchair Accessible Scales
• Wheelchair Mounts
• Wheelchairs
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace

Executive Functioning Deficits
• Apps for Concentration
• Apps for Memory
• Calendars and Planners
• Checklists
• Color Coded System
• Cubicle Doors, Shields, and Shades
• Environmental Sound Machines / Tinnitus Maskers / White Noise Machines
• Extra Time
• Flexible Schedule
• Form Generating Software
• Full Spectrum or Natural Lighting Products
• Job Coaches
• Job Restructuring
• Marginal Functions
• Memory Software
• Modified Break Schedule
• Noise Canceling Earbuds
• Noise Canceling Headsets
• On-site Mentoring
• Recorded Directives, Messages, Materials
• Reminders
• Sound Absorption and Sound Proof Panels
• Speech Recognition Software
• Sun Boxes and Lights
• Sun Simulating Desk Lamps
• Timers and Watches
• Written Instructions

Memory Loss
• Additional Training Time / Training Refreshers
• Apps for Memory
• Calendars and Planners
• Electronic Organizers
• Job Coaches
• Memory Software
• Professional Organizers
• Recorded Directives, Messages, Materials
• Reminders
• Social Skill Builders
• Support Person
• Verbal Cues
• Visual Schedulers
• Written Instructions

Mental Confusion
• Electronic Organizers
• Job Coaches
• Marginal Functions
• On-site Mentoring
• PDAs, Notetakers, and Laptops
• Professional Organizers
• Reminders
• Social Skill Builders
• Supervisory Methods
• Training Modifications
• Written Instructions

Organizing/Planning/Prioritizing
• Applications (apps)
• Apps for Organization/ Time Management
• Calendars and Planners
• Color-coded Manuals, Outlines, and Maps
• Electronic Organizers
• Ergonomic Equipment
• Job Coaches
• Job Restructuring
• On-site Mentoring
• Organization Software
• Personal On-Site Paging Devices
• Professional Organizers
• Reminders
• Supervisory Methods
• Task Identification
• Task Separation
• Timers and Watches
• Visual Schedulers
• Written Instructions
Overall Body Coordination

- Canes
- Convex Mirrors
- Ergonomic and Pneumatic Tools
- Long-Handled Mirrors
- Personal Transportation and Mobility Products
- Rollators and Rolling Walkers
- Scooters
- Telescoping Cameras
- Walkers
- Walkers with Seats

Overall Body Weakness/Strength

- Move Items/People
  - Animal Lift Tables
  - Battery Powered Lift Tables
  - Compact Material Handling
  - Lift Tables
  - Linen Carts
  - Multi-Purpose Carts
  - Patient Lifts (General)

- Workspace Access
  - Adjustable and Ergonomic School Desks and Equipment
  - Anti-fatigue Matting
  - Elevating Wheelchairs
  - Ergonomic and Adjustable Office Chairs
  - Ergonomic Equipment
  - Foldable / Transport Wheelchairs
  - Forearm Supports
  - Grab Bars
  - Independent Living Aids
  - Large-Rated Scooters
• Large-Rated Wheelchairs
• Office Chairs with Brakes and Locking Casters
• Personal Safety and Fall Alert Devices
• Personal Transportation and Mobility Products
• Power Assist for Manual Wheelchairs
• Scooters
• Stair Lifts
• Stand-lean Stools
• Stand-up Wheelchairs
• Toileting Aids
• Walkers
• Walkers with Seats
• Wearable Anti-fatigue Matting
• Wheelchairs
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace

Spasm/Tic/Tremor/Blinking
• Aide/Assistant/Attendant
• Alternative Input Devices
• Alternative Keyboards
• Alternative Mice
• Alternative Mice - Limiting Tremors
• Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Device
• Auto-dialers
• Book Holders
• Breath and Mouth Controlled Alternative Computer Input Devices
• Compact Material Handling
• Door Knob Grips and Handles
• Eating Aids
• Ergonomic and Pneumatic Tools
• Ergonomic Equipment
• Expanded Keyboards
• Extra Grip Gloves
• Forearm Supports
• Grip Aids
• Hands Free Resuscitation Devices
• Hands-free Telephones
• Job Restructuring
• Keyguards
• Money Handling Products
• On-Screen Keyboards
• One-Handed Keyboards
• Outgoing Voice Amplification - Telephone
• Padded Edging
• Page Turners
• Periodic Rest Breaks
• Personal On-Site Paging Devices
• Protective Eyewear
• Scribe/Notetaker
• Speech Recognition Software
• Switches
• Tongue Touch Keyboards/Mice
• Tool Balancers
• Typing / Keyboarding Aids
• Vacuum Lifts
• Vacuum Pickup Tools
• Voice Amplification
• Voice Recognition Memory Devices
• Word Prediction/Completion and Macro Software
• Writing Aids

Stress Intolerance
• Apps for Anxiety and Stress
• Behavior Modification Techniques
• Counseling/Therapy
• Environmental Sound Machines / Tinnitus Maskers / White Noise Machines
• Flexible Schedule
• Job Restructuring
• Marginal Functions
• Modified Break Schedule
• Supervisory Methods
• Support Animal
• Support Person

Take Medication
• Flexible Schedule
• Medication Reminders
• Policy Modification
• Rest Area/Private Space
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely

Unable to Work Alone
• Alerting Devices
• Apps for Anxiety and Stress
• Apps for Memory
• Behavior Modification Techniques
• Counseling/Therapy
• Disability Awareness/Etiquette Training
• Employee Assistance Program
• Flexible Schedule
• Job Restructuring
• Plan of Action
• Supervisory Methods
• Support Animal
• Support Person

Walking
- Accessories for Scooters
- Aide/Assistant/Attendant
- All-Terrain Scooters
- All-Terrain Wheelchairs
- Anti-fatigue Matting
- Boat Access
- Ergonomic and Pneumatic Tools
- Examination and Procedures Chair
- Foldable / Transport Wheelchairs
- Head Support for Wheelchairs
- Large-Rated Scooters
- Large-Rated Wheelchairs
- Low Task Chair
- Personal Transportation and Mobility Products
- Reclining Wheelchairs
- Rollators and Rolling Walkers
- Scooters
- Scooters for Small Stature
- Stair Assists
- Stools for Cutting Hair
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Van Conversion
- Walkers
- Walkers for Tall Individuals
- Walkers with Seats
- Wearable Anti-fatigue Matting
- Wheelchair Accessible Scales
- Wheelchair Carts/Trailers
- Wheelchair Mounts
- Wheelchairs
- Wheelchairs for Small Stature
• Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace

**Work-Related Functions**

**Commute**

- Flexible Schedule
- Ridesharing/Carpooling
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Transportation Assistance
- Van Conversion
- Walkers

**Off Site Access**

- Accessible Vehicles
- Accessories for Scooters
- All-Terrain Scooters
- All-Terrain Wheelchairs
- Examination and Procedures Chair
- Flexible Schedule
- Head Support for Wheelchairs
- Low Task Chair
- Personal Transportation and Mobility Products
- Scooters
- Stair Assists
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Transportation Assistance
- Van Conversion
- Wheelchair Accessible Scales
- Wheelchair Carts/Trailers
- Wheelchair Mounts

**Parking**

- Accessible Parking Space
- Flexible Schedule
• Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
• Wheelchairs

Safety Standards
• Additional Training Time / Training Refreshers
• Aerial Lifts
• Alerting Devices
• Body Protection
• Break Reminder Software
• Custom Shoes
• Cut and Puncture Resistant Gloves and Sleeves
• Designated Responders
• Ergonomic Assessments
• Ergonomic Equipment
• Fall Protection
• Machine Guards and Shields
• Personal Safety and Fall Alert Devices
• Plan of Action
• Rolling Safety Ladders
• Stair Tread/Textured Tape
• Task Rotation
• Vehicle Rear Vision System
• Workplace Safety
• Established Routes of Travel for Heavy Equipment/Vehicles

Use Cognitive Function
• Additional Training Time / Training Refreshers
• Aide/Assistant/Attendant
• Color Coded System
• Counting/Measuring Aids
• Electronic Dictionaries
• Electronic Organizers
• Extra Time
• Fractional, Decimal, Statistical, or Scientific Calculators
• Job Coaches
• Line Guides
• Marginal Functions
• Modified Break Schedule
• On-site Mentoring
• Personal On-Site Paging Devices
• Professional Organizers
• Reassignment
• Reminders
• Service Animal
• Social Skill Builders
• Support Person
• Training Modifications
• Uninterrupted Work Time

Work Site Access
• Accessible Toilets and Toilet Seats
• Accessories for Scooters
• Adjustable Workstations for Industrial Settings
• Adjustable Workstations for Office Settings
• All-Terrain Scooters
• Anti-fatigue Matting
• Automatic Door Openers
• Boat Access
• Braille and/or ADA Signage
• Door Knob Grips and Handles
• Examination and Procedures Chair
• Flexible Schedule
• Head Support for Wheelchairs
• High Visibility Floor Tape and Paint
- Low Task Chair
- Portable Ramps
- Ramps
- Scooters
- Service Animal
- Smart Locks/Keyless Entry Locks
- Stair Assists
- Stair Tread/Textured Tape
- Support Animal
- Telework, Work from Home, Working Remotely
- Van Conversion
- Walkers
- Wearable Anti-fatigue Matting
- Wheelchair Accessible Scales
- Wheelchair Carts/Trailers
- Wheelchair Lifts
- Wheelchair Mounts
- Wheelchairs
- Worksite Redesign / Modified Workspace
Situations and Solutions:

A teacher with Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty standing in front of the classroom to write on the board. The individual was accommodated with a scooter and a laptop and PC projector. She was then able to remain seated while using the computer and projector to display information to the class.

A consultant with Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty getting to work on time. He was accommodated with flexible scheduling so he could use public transportation.

A file clerk with Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty meeting the physical demands of the job, including walking between work areas, standing at filing cabinets, and carrying files. The individual was accommodated with a power scooter with a basket and a stand/lean stool.

A supervisor with Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty managing fatigue. The employer provided a private rest area with a cot so the individual could take breaks throughout the day.

A customer service representative with Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty manipulating his mouse, writing, standing to greet people, and communicating effectively. He was accommodated with a trackball, writing aid, stool with lift cushion, and speech amplification.

A secretary with Parkinson’s disease and hand tremors was having difficulty using a keyboard, writing, manipulating manuals, and filing. She was accommodated with a keyguard, typing aid, page turner, and open files.

A technician with Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty concentrating. The employee’s supervisor provided written job instructions when possible and allowed the individual to have periodic rest breaks. In addition, she was moved to a corner cubical where distractions were minimized with strategically placed baffles.

An engineer with Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty concentrating and communicating. The individual was accommodated with a quiet office free from distractions. In addition, her supervisor implemented a policy of scheduled interruptions with written reminders and assignments. The individual was also provided with a communication device.

An office assistant with tremors and fatigue caused by Parkinson’s disease was having difficulty typing the number of words per minute required by her employer. The individual rearranged her workstation to reduce distractions and her employer
offered flexible scheduling. Her word processing software was programmed with macros to reduce keystrokes and she was given speech recognition software.

**Products**

There are numerous products that can be used to accommodate people with limitations. JAN's Searchable Online Accommodation Resource at [https://askjan.org/soar](https://askjan.org/soar) is designed to let users explore various accommodation options. Many product vendor lists are accessible through this system; however, JAN provides these lists and many more that are not available on the Web site upon request. Contact JAN directly if you have specific accommodation situations, are looking for products, need vendor information, or are seeking a referral.
Resources

Job Accommodation Network
West Virginia University
PO Box 6080
Morgantown, WV 26506-6080
Toll Free: (800) 526-7234
TTY: (304) 293-7186
Fax: (304) 293-5407
jan@askjan.org
https://askjan.org

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is a free consulting service that provides information about job accommodations, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the employability of people with disabilities.

Office of Disability Employment Policy
200 Constitution Avenue,
NW, Room S-1303
Washington, DC 20210
Toll Free: (866) 633-7365
odep@dol.gov
https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Labor. ODEP provides national leadership to increase employment opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities while striving to eliminate barriers to employment.

Alzheimer's Association
225 N. Michigan Avenue
Floor 17
Chicago, IL 60601-7633
Toll Free: (800) 272-3900
info@alz.org
http://www.alz.org
The Alzheimer's Association is the leading, global voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care and support, and the largest private, nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research.

**American Occupational Therapy Association**
6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
Direct: (301) 652-6611
members@aota.org
https://www.aota.org/

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the national professional association established in 1917 to represent the interests and concerns of occupational therapy practitioners and students of occupational therapy and to improve the quality of occupational therapy services.

**American Parkinson Disease Association, Inc.**
135 Parkinson Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10305
Toll Free: (800) 223-2732
Direct: (718) 981-8001
Fax: (718) 981-4399
apda@apdaparkinson.org
http://www.apdaparkinson.org

The American Parkinson Disease Association provides information on local resources, publications, videos, and referrals.

**American Physical Therapy Association**

MoveForwardPT.com is the official consumer information website of the American Physical Therapy Association.
The Brain & Behavior Research Foundation is committed to alleviating the suffering caused by mental illness by awarding grants that will lead to advances and breakthroughs in scientific research.

Charlie Foundation for Ketogenic Therapies
515 Ocean Ave.
#602N
Santa Monica, CA 90402
Direct: (310) 393-2347
http://www.charliefoundation.org/

The Charlie Foundation for Ketogenic Therapies was founded in 1994 to provide information about diet therapies for people with epilepsy, other neurological disorders and tumorous cancers.

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center (GARD)
P.O. Box 8126
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8126
Toll Free: (888) 205-2311
Fax: (301) 251-4911
https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/

The Genetic and Rare Diseases (GARD) Information Center is a program of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and funded by two parts of the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NCATS and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). GARD provides the public with access to current, reliable, and easy to understand information about rare or genetic diseases in English or Spanish.
The International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS) is a professional society of over 4,500 clinicians, scientists and other healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the care of patients with movement disorders through education and research.

The Mayo Clinic's mission to inspire hope and contribute to health and well-being by providing the best care to every patient through integrated clinical practice, education and research.

MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's Web site for patients and their families and friends. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, the world’s largest medical library, it brings you information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues in language you can understand. MedlinePlus offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, for free.
Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
Grand Central Station
PO Box 4777
New York, NY 10163-4777
Toll Free: (800) 708-7644
https://www.michaeljfox.org/

The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through an aggressively funded research agenda and to ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with Parkinson's today.

National Association for Continence
PO Box 1019
Charleston, SC 29402
Toll Free: (800) 252-3337
http://www.nafc.org/

The focus of the National Association for Continence is to provide quality continence care through education, collaboration, and advocacy. We offer up many different avenues so you can start to have important and meaningful conversation about your experience with incontinence. Here you can read in-depth explanations and get straight talk about every type of continence from medical experts. We can even help you connect with physicians local to you who specialize in dealing with this life-altering condition.

National Center for Biotechnology Information
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20894
pubmedcentral@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

The National Center for Biotechnology Information advances science and health by providing access to biomedical and genomic information.
NHGRI's mission has expanded to encompass a broad range of studies aimed at understanding the structure and function of the human genome and its role in health and disease. To that end NHGRI supports the development of resources and technology that will accelerate genome research and its application to human health. A critical part of the NHGRI mission continues to be the study of the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of genome research. NHGRI also supports the training of investigators and the dissemination of genome information to the public and to health professionals.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
P.O. Box 5801
Bethesda, MD 20824
Toll Free: (800) 352-9424
Direct: (301) 496-5751
http://www.ninds.nih.gov

The NINDS, an agency of the U.S. Federal Government and a component of the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Public Health Service, is a lead agency for the congressionally designated Decade of the Brain, and the leading supporter of biomedical research on disorders of the brain and nervous system.

National Institute on Aging
31 Center Drive
MSC 2292
Bethesda, MD 20892
Toll Free: (800) 222-2225
niaic@nia.nih.gov
https://www.nia.nih.gov/
At NIA, our mission is to discover what may contribute to a healthy old age as well as to understand and address the disease and disability sometimes associated with growing older. In pursuit of these goals, our research program covers a broad range of areas, from the study of basic cellular changes that occur with age to the examination of the biomedical, social, and behavioral aspects of age-related conditions, including Alzheimer’s disease.

**National Organization for Rare Disorders**  
55 Kenosia Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06813-1968  
Toll Free: (800) 999-6673  
Direct: (203) 744-0100  
Fax: (203) 263-9938  
[http://www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org)

NORD is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service.

**National Parkinson Foundation**  
200 SE 1st Street  
Suite 800  
Miami, FL 33131  
Toll Free: (800) 473-4636  
Fax: (305) 537-9901  
contact@parkinson.org  

The purpose of this Foundation is to find the cause and cure for Parkinson's Disease and allied neurological disorders through research, to provide diagnostic training and therapeutic services and to educate the general medical practitioners on how to detect the early warning signs of Parkinson's Disease. National Parkinson's Foundation
The Parkinson Foundation of Canada is a non-profit, national charitable organization. The Foundation raises money through endowment funds, corporate sponsorships, and public donations. Finding the cause and cure for Parkinson's disease remains its chief mission.

The mission of The Parkinson’s Institute (The PI) is to provide comprehensive patient care, while discovering new treatment options to improve the quality of life for all Parkinson's disease (PD) patients. As America’s only independent non-profit organization combining research and patient care for PD under one roof, we are committed to changing the landscape of movement disorder treatment and research. Since its founding, The PI has helped thousands of PD patients better manage their disease, developed new treatments for PD, and published groundbreaking research aimed to close the gap between science and practical care. By focusing on all three avenues of PD - cause, care and cure - The PI is a powerful force in PD research.

Remedy’s Health Communities
http://www.healthcommunities.com
Remedy Health Media is America’s fastest growing health information and technology company. We are a leading provider of clinical resources and wellness tools that help millions of patients and caregivers live healthier, more fulfilled lives.

Our mission is to empower patients and caregivers with the information and applications needed to efficiently navigate the healthcare landscape and as a result, to permit better health outcomes through use of our products and services.

The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 38016
Albany, NY 12203
Direct: (212) 509-0995
lfreeman@michaeljfox.org
http://www.dystonia-parkinsons.org/

The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation (“BSDPF”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to finding better treatments and cures for the movement disorders dystonia and Parkinson’s disease.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Toll Free: (844) 698-2311
http://www.va.gov/

The Agency is responsible for providing employment, training, educational and reemployment rights information and assistance to veterans, and other military personnel who are preparing to transition from the military. Also provide hearing aids. All World War I veterans are eligible to receive free hearing aids. Other veterans can receive free hearing aids if their hearing loss is at least 50% service-related.