MOVEMENT SYSTEM DIAGNOSES NEUROMUSCULAR CONDITIONS

Description of Categories

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The following pages contain descriptions of the movement system problems we have identified among people with neuromuscular conditions. While many of the people in the categories described in this set of diagnoses may have a central nervous system pathology, many will have non-specific and/or varied health conditions. What the patients have in common is one or more limitations in their ability to move within the environment, manipulate objects, and /or balance in a given position for reasons other than pain. In this set of movement impairment diagnoses, rather than being sorted by traditional health conditions or diseases, patients are categorized by their type of movement system problem. This allows for the grouping of patients along parameters that physical therapists both examine and treat.

We believe that the movement system problems described apply to both the adult and pediatric population. There are differences between adults and children in the health conditions associated with a given movement impairment diagnosis and the tasks examined. We have used the following symbols to designate characteristics of the diagnosis applicable for all age groups and those associated predominantly with pediatrics:

- **KEY** Observed in all age groups
 - Observed in pediatrics

We have described the clinical examination required to identify these movement system diagnoses in an accompanying document. The examination consists of tests of body structures and functions and observational analysis of specific tasks. The key findings that relate to each specific diagnosis are outlined in the pages that follow.

In addition to the examination, we have outlined sample treatments for each of the diagnoses. The treatment ideas are derived from external evidence where possible and clinical practice experience. Because much of the literature related to rehabilitation intervention is sorted by health condition rather than movement system problem, the supporting external evidence for our treatment ideas is based on our understanding of the subjects in a given study, the study results, and how they may be related to the movement system problem described.

To request a copy of the examination and/or sample treatment ideas, please contact Patty Scheets at patricia.scheets@gentiva.com or plscheets@gmail.com.

DIAGNOSIS: MOVEMENT PATTERN COORDINATION DEFICIT

The primary movement dysfunction is the inability to coordinate an intersegmental task because of a deficit in timing and sequencing of one segment in relationship to another. The movement dysfunction in the lower extremity is primarily observed during postural control tasks and in the upper extremity during in hand manipulation and grasp and release of different objects coupled with reach. Motor performance typically improves with practice and instruction.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions:	Task Analysis:	Movement:	Force Production Deficit	Stable with standing ADL
Stroke (mild)	Sit to Stand:	 Generally fractionated 	 Sensory Selection and 	tasks
Multiple Sclerosis	Altered sequence of	movement against gravity	Weighting Deficit	 Independent ambulation
(remitting)	movement components	throughout	 Sensory Detection Deficit 	in home and community
 Parkinson's Disease 	during execution (usually		Dysmetria	(at least in familiar
(mild)	insufficient DF of leg over	Muscle Tone:		environments)
 Generalized debilitation 	foot)	Normal or mild		Ambulate without device
Multi-sensory	Posterior sway at ankle	hyperexcitability, mild		or with cane at most; may
gait/balance disturbance	and may step at	hypotonicity or mild		need an AFO but unlikely
s/p LE surgery	termination	rigidity		Ascend/descend stairs
BPPV with postural	Unlikely to require	Grades of 0-2 on		reciprocally
instability	significant physical	modified Ashworth		Gait speed at least 75%
Oown Syndrome	assistance			of normal for age
Mental Retardation	A dell'ille and Tonnell's and Advis	Sensation:		
Prenatal Drug/Alcohol	Additional Transitional Mvts:	Normal or no more than		
Exposure	@ Altered sequence,	mild loss of JPS at great		
Oevelopmental	instability, and lack of	toe or ankle in LE		
Coordination Disorder	fluidity when executing transitional movements	Normal or no more than		
Q Autism Spectrum		mild loss of sharp/dull or		
Disorder	appropriate to age (or adjusted age)	numbness in UE		
@ Prematurity	aujusteu age)	Non contillerium		
Developmental Delay	Gait:	Non-equilibrium Coordination:		
@ Fragile X	Variable foot placement or			
Idiopathic Toe Walker Mater Arresis	line of progression or may	Normal or mild (to moderate) ataxia with		
Motor Apraxia	be guarded with slow,	,		
Pt / Caregiver May Report:	small steps	reciprocal and synergistic movement		
• Feels unsteady; possible	Assistance for balance	Normal or mild ataxia with		
fall		tests of accuracy		
Fear of falling				
© Clumsiness				
Occasional falls				
Delay in fine motor tasks				
Overly messy when				

eating and dressing	Jump, Run, Skip and other			
Started walking later than	advanced motor skills:			
other children	Q Altered sequence,			
@ Awkward compared to	instability, and/or lack of			
peers	fluidity			
Poor performance in	May need assistance for			
sports activities	balance			
	Reach and grasp:			
	Slowed or awkward			
	Difficulty adjusting grip			
	during transport of objects			
	Difficulty controlling force			
	relative to task demands			
	© Lack of age appropriate			
	grasp			
	Postural Control:			
	Increased latency in			
	postural movement			
	patterns and/or			
	Inappropriate amplitude of			
	postural adjustments or			
	responses			
	 Increased posterior sway 			
	during stance activities			
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DIAGNOSIS: FORCE PRODUCTION DEFICIT

The primary movement fault is weakness. The origin of the weakness may be muscle, neuromuscular junction, peripheral nerve, or central nervous system dysfunction. The presentation may be focal (one joint), segmental (generalized to an extremity or body region), or related to fatigue (of skeletal muscle rather than cardiopulmonary capacity).

- Polio/post-polio syndrome ?
- © Cerebral Palsy
- @ Myelomeningocele
- Q Hypotonia

Pt / Caregiver May Report:

- Increased need for caregiver assistance
- Fatigue
- Wistory of prematurity
- Oelay in acquisition of motor milestones appropriate for age

execution Gait:

- May need manual assistance or a device to bear weight and maintain upright
- Deviations are often significant
- In severe forms will be unable to attempt ambulation

Reach and Grasp:

- Difficulty or failure with reach above 60° shoulder flexion and/or with sustaining reach position
- Unable to maintain force for gripping objects especially during transport
- Unable to bring arms to midline in supine when age appropriate
- Unable to hold bottle in sitting

Postural Control:

- Unable to stand unsupported or loss of support moment at hip and knee during single limb support
- Limited improvement in performance with practice; may worsen with repeated trials
- In more severe forms may be unable to sit unsupported

- compensatory movement strategies but may still require assistance
- Use of wheelchair at least for distances likely; degree of independence with wheelchair mobility relative to involved extremities
- In less severe form, ambulate short distances with device and/or bracing and/or physical assistance at very slow speeds
- Able to use hand as an assist with activity in less involved forms
- In more severe forms requires 24 hour care

DIAGNOSIS: FRACTIONATED MOVEMENT DEFICIT

The primary movement dysfunction is the inability to fractionate movement associated with moderate or greater hyperexcitability. May describe the upper or lower extremity or both. Always associated with central neurological deficit.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions: Stroke Brain Injury/hypoxia Spinal Cord Injury (ASIA C or D) Multiple Sclerosis Intraventricular Hemorrhage (IVH) Periventricular Luekomalacia (PVL) Brain Tumor Meningitis CP/static encephalopathy Pt / Caregivers May Report: Stiffness of the limbs and/or pain Complicated perinatal history, ie documented PVL, IVH, hypoxic ischemic event	Movement: • Unable to fractionate movement • Slow; unable to make rapid reversals in movement • Unable to generate force rapidly Muscle Tone: • Moderate or greater hyperexcitability • Grade 3 or 4 on the modified Ashworth Reflex Testing: • May exhibit +ATNR, +STNR Task Analysis: • Consistent nonfractionated movement pattern across multiple tasks	Task Analysis: Pull to sit: Neck hyperextension with shoulder elevation May exhibit LE extension, adduction, and hip medial rotation (LE extensor pattern) Prone on elbows: Neck hyperextension with shoulder elevation Floor to stand: Pulls up with UEs with LEs extended; unable to fractionate or dissociate LE movements Sit to Stand: Stiffness of involved limbs Slow No dissociation of movement at one joint from movement at another May see associated reactions with increased effort In forms with less antigravity movement, unable to stand	Force Production Deficit	 Related to degree of antigravity movement In forms with more antigravity movement, stability in sitting and with reaching; ambulation in home and community with significant deviations and significant reduction in speed with or without a cane; ascend/descend stairs step-to with or without a railing In forms with 4 limb involvement wheelchair for locomotion (probably electric) Able to use UE as "assist" with ADL

Creeping: @ May exhibit bunny hopping or commando crawling rather than assuming a 4-point position Gait: Compensatory movement strategy of hip hiking, vaulting, or circumduction to initiate swing of involved extremities • Stiffness of hip/knee flexion during swing Scissoring • "toe walking" or "equinus gait" • Hip and knee often flexed during stance of involved extremities • Likely to require AFO to control foot position for weight bearing • Likely to require assistive device at least early in course · In forms with less antigravity movement, unable to stand Reach and Grasp: Able to reach in very limited range(< 60-90°) Hand closure with minimal relaxation or minimal opening • Finger flexion associated with wrist flexion and pronation Postural Control:

	 In forms with more antigravity movement, able to sit unsupported but asymmetrically or with posterior pelvic tilt (sacral sitting) and hip medial rotation with compensatory thoracic flexion Stability may improve with practice but symmetry will not
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DIAGNOSIS: POSTURAL VERTICAL DEFICIT

The primary movement dysfunction is inaccurate perception of vertical orientation resulting in postural control deficits and the tendency to **resist correction of center of mass alignment**. The condition may be in the medial/lateral or anterior/posterior direction.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions: Stroke (med/lat) Brain Injury (med/lat) Psychomotor Disadaptation Syndrome (ant/post) Backward Disequilibrium (ant/post) Rhett's Syndrome Pt / Caregiver May Report: Backward falls Fear of falling Visual or visual perceptual deficits	Postural Control: Shifts center of mass beyond limits of stability to side or backward without weight acceptance Resists correction or becomes fearful/agitated when center of mass alignment is corrected Deficits may present in sitting, standing, or with walking depending on severity Perception: Sensation of "falling" when shifted toward correct vertical alignment May have disregard or neglect of involved extremities	 Movement: Presentation is variable although movement in at least 60% of muscle groups in the LE is expected Movement may not be fractionated Motor Planning: May have difficulty planning or organizing movement patterns into purposeful actions Sensation: Likely to be impaired to light touch and joint position sense (med/lat) Behavior: Impulsive Poor judgment Fear avoidance behavior such as clutching or grabbing with UE and shifting base of support 	 Sensory Selection and Weighting Deficit Sensory Detection Deficit Fractionated Movement Deficit Force Production Deficit 	 Related to severity of behavioral/cognitive deficits, motor function, and natural recovery of perceptual deficit Assisted ambulation with uncomplicated devices such as wheeled walker or along a wall Many are non-ambulatory and require significant assistance with transfers

DIAGNOSIS: SENSORY SELECTION AND WEIGHTING DEFICIT

The primary movement dysfunction is the inability to maintain postural orientation or motor performance as a result of decreased ability to screen for and attend to appropriate sensory inputs. Patients may demonstrate sensory seeking or sensory avoidance behaviors.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions: Stroke Brain Injury Unilateral vestibular hypofunction Bilateral vestibular hypofunction BPPV with postural instability Sensory Integration Autism Spectrum Disorder Pervasive Developmental Disorder Rhett's Syndrome Asperger's Syndrome Sensory Processing Disorder Pt / Caregiver May Report: Symptoms when riding in a car, when walking along patterned walkways, or in visually stimulating environments Repetitive non-purposeful movements Impaired social behaviors Aversion to a variety of sensory stimuli Delayed acquisition of motor milestones appropriate for age	Task Analysis: Gait: Deviation in line of progression to one or both sides Instability with head turning Turning Around: Loss of balance or increased ankle or hip sway at termination Worse with faster movement Dizzy Postural Control: Able to stand unsupported but may require practice Increased sway or instability with eyes closed or other change in sensory conditions May demonstrate hip strategy during static standing tasks Postural responses may be delayed or exaggerated; exaggerated responses lead to postural instability May improve with modification of sensory needs and practice, instruction and	Movement: Fractionated Non-equilibrium Coordination: Intact Head Thrust Test: May be positive Dynamic Visual Acuity: May be positive Sensation/Sensory Behavior: May show signs of gaze aversion May show signs of self stimulation behaviors such as rocking, spinning and banging	Movement Pattern Coordination Deficit Postural Vertical Deficit Sensory Detection Deficit	Ambulation with straight line of progression and no loss of balance in all regular sensory environments May have decreased tolerance to prolonged exposure to highly visually stimulating environments May have symptoms with head/body turning tasks with mild to no instability

encouragement	
Dizziness: • Dizziness associated with head turning	
Sensory Sensitivity: • Symptoms with smooth pursuit and/or saccadic eye movement or in situations with visual motion cues. • Symptoms with transitions from one sensory	
environment to another	

DIAGNOSIS: SENSORY DETECTION DEFICIT

The primary movement dysfunction is the inability to execute intersegmental movement due to lack of joint position sense or multi-sensory failure affecting joint position sense, vision, and/or the vestibular system. May involve UE, LE, or both.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions: Stroke Brain Injury Incomplete spinal cord injury (ASIA C or D) Peripheral polyneuropathy Multi-system failure Bilateral vestibular loss Pt / Caregiver May Report: Unable to stand still Exposure to vincristine for childhood cancer Child trips while walking or running Can hear child walking due to foot slap	 Sensation: Moderate to severe impairment of joint position sense or protective sensation of one or both LEs Mild or greater loss of joint position sense and touch sensation of one or both UEs New visual field deficit greater than 50% Task Analysis: Sit to Stand: Failure during the execution phase with hyperextension of the knee(s) before hip extension, instability of the ankle, and/or stepping to alter base of support Gait: Variation in foot placement, hyperextension of the knee during stance, loss of eccentric ankle control (foot slap during gait) Requires assistance Some improvement with visual guidance if possible 	Movement: Poor timing and coordination of limb movement during tasks Non-equilibrium Coordination: Slow and clumsy Some improvement with visual guidance	 Movement Pattern Coordination Deficit Postural Vertical Deficit Sensory Selection and Weighting Deficit 	Ambulation with assistive device Increased difficulty in conditions of poor lighting and uneven surfaces Limited standing stability for functional tasks Lack of hand function without visual guidance

Reach and Grasp: Slow and dyscoordinated Improves with visual guidance	
Postural Control: Unable to stand unsupported or difficult If able to stand unsupported, significant increase in sway or LOB with eyes closed Limited improvement in performance with practice	

DIAGNOSIS: HYPOKINESIA

The primary movement dysfunction is related to slowness in initiating and executing movement. May be associated with stopping of ongoing movement.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions: Stroke Seizure Disorder Parkinson's Disease Extra-pyramidal syndromes Parkinsonism or Parkinson's Plus Psychomotor Disadaptation Syndrome Dementia IVH Seizure Disorder	 Movement: Able to move against gravity Arrests in ongoing movement during functional tasks Postural Control: Delayed timing of postural adjustments or absent postural adjustments in response to or in preparation of a movement Loss of balance posteriorly Inability to use appropriate postural control strategy in context Task Analysis: Sit to Stand or Floor to Stand: Slow or lack of preparatory movement Assistance with initiation Loss of balance on termination Unable to shift center of mass forward Gait: Difficulty initiating ambulation Often requires assistance due to arrests in ongoing movement Unable to regulate step length 	Muscle Tone: Rigid with passive movement of U/LE and/or trunk Non-equilibrium Coordination: Undershoots movement when aimed toward a target Slowness or arrests in reciprocal movement Reflexes: Delayed integration of early/primitive reflexes	Force Production Deficit Cognitive Deficit	 In milder forms may see improvement in step length and consistency of foot placement Improvement in use of adaptive strategies in more severe forms Likely to fall

DIAGNOSIS: DYSMETRIA

The primary movement dysfunction is related to the inability to grade forces appropriately for the distance and speed aspects of a task. Rapid movements are generally too large, and slow movements are generally too small for their intended purpose. Performance deteriorates with faster speeds. May involve UE, LE, or both. Generally associated with cerebellar dysfunction.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions: Stroke Brain Injury Cerebellar degeneration Multiple Sclerosis Cerebral Palsy Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum Fragile X Ataxia Pt / Caregiver May Report: Falls Messy when eating Is clumsy Has frequent injuries	 Non-Equilibrium Coordination: Difficulty directing movement toward a target resulting in undershooting or overshooting Abnormal rhythm and incoordination during rapidly alternating movements No change with practice Movement: Able to move against gravity Lack of fluidity Task Analysis: Overshooting or undershooting of targets; repeated stepping and wide base of support in standing tasks; excessive sway at trunk Sit to Stand: Wide base of support; may see excessive sway at trunk; uses UE to stabilize Reach and Grasp: Unable to reach to targets Difficulty grasping small or light objects Difficulty grasping small or light objects Ordination: Wide base of support; may see excessive sway at trunk; uses UE to stabilize Difficulty grasping small or light objects Difficulty grasping small or light objects Difficulty grasping small or light objects Moderation of the provided results are supported to target and the pro	Postural Control: Generally able to sit with UE support; may be able to sit unsupported Unable to stand unsupported or stands with wide base of support and high guard Task Analysis: Gait: Variable foot placement in step length and step width Generally requires assistance	Movement Pattern Coordination Deficit Sensory Detection Deficit	 Ambulation in home with device and perhaps bracing May require wheelchair in community Limited independence with UE ADL tasks with adaptive equipment

CLASSIFICATION: COGNITIVE DEFICIT

The primary deficit in movement is impaired motor control related to lack of arousal, attention, or ability to apply meaning to situation that is appropriate for age.

Subjective/Medical History	Key Tests and Signs	Associated Signs	Differential Movement System Dx	Expected Outcome
Associated Conditions: Anoxia Brain Injury Neoplasm Dementia Severe mental retardation Persistent vegetative state	Cognition: Lack of arousal Lack of response to stimuli Absent attention to examiner and situation Absent ability to apply meaning to situation	Movement: • May demonstrate loss of spontaneous or voluntary movement • May be able to move against gravity but not in relationship to situational demands	 Fractionated Movement Deficit Movement Pattern Coordination Deficit Force Production Deficit 	 May be dependent in all mobility or May be mobile only within a structured environment 24 hour assistance/supervision