

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in regard to Anna xxxxxx, a young girl followed by me in clinic for individuals with Rett syndrome. It is my strong opinion that Anna needs access to an eye gaze communication device such as the ECO2™ by PRC without delay.

As an introduction, Rett syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects approximately 1 in every 10,000 females born in the United States. The syndrome is characterized by specific developmental and motor manifestations. During the period of regression, individuals lose purposeful use of their hands, and, if they acquire the ability to walk, have an abnormal gait. They require interventions such as occupational, physical and speech therapy throughout their lives to improve or maintain function, although they will never be capable of independent living. In general, they may experience seizures which are difficult to detect, and frequently have complicated feeding and elimination problems. Spinal abnormalities are fairly common and may require surgery if adequate steps are not taken to slow the process. They are intolerant of extreme temperatures. They often are extremely anxious which could be exacerbated by prolonged confinement in a noisy or otherwise uncomfortable environment, such as on a bus.

A hallmark feature of the disorder is severely impaired expressive language. However, persons are able to communicate with the help of augmentative communication strategies and technical devices. The ability to successfully use an augmentative communication device that utilizes eye gaze technology has been demonstrated time after time. Any device such as the ECO2™ that utilizes eye gaze and that can provide a mechanism for expressive communication is imperative for an individual who otherwise cannot speak. For Anna, it would allow her parents, teachers and caregivers to understand and meet even her most basic of needs. It is my professional opinion having cared for girls with Rett syndrome for some time and having seen Anna several times over the years (and as recently as last week) that she is fully capable of utilizing such a device in a functional way and would benefit greatly from this. She has the eye gaze and apparent cognitive abilities to use the device. It could be utilized by Anna for years to come.

Please contact my office should you have questions.

Sincerely,