**MMMM DD, YYYY**

**Patient: ([patient full name] Insurance Company:** [insurance company name]

**Subscriber Name:** [policy holder name] **Policy #:** [policy number]

Dear Claims Specialist,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my patient [patient full name] to request coverage for GenomeDx testing (whole-genome microarray analysis) for developmental abnormalities offered through GeneDx, a CLIA-certified high-complexity genetic testing laboratory located in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

**Information on patient’s condition:**

[patient first name] is a [patient age] year-old [patient gender - boy/girl] suspected to have [clinical diagnosis]. This patient requires genetic testing to confirm this diagnosis. **Results from this testing will guide us in offering medical care for this patient and in providing genetic counseling for the rest of the family so that they can make informed choices regarding their health.**

**The GenomeDx test from GeneDx**

Within last few years microarray based analysis has emerged as a primary screening test for above mentioned disorders, superior alternative to telomere FISH in persons with developmental disabilities/mental retardation, and a diagnostic tool to determine the presence or absence of a specific gene within a known region of genomic imbalance (contiguous gene deletion syndrome). With a single test, the microarray analysis allows for a comprehensive interrogation of tens of thousands of discrete genomic locations for DNA copy-number gains and losses which is not possible by traditional methods like FISH or karyotype. GeneDx uses a new array CGH technology to evaluate the complete human genome in a single experiment at very high resolution. This technology replaces, to a large extent, the traditional cytogenetic and subtelomeric FISH methods that we currently request. These traditional tests are currently covered by the patient’s insurance policy but the total clinical yield from these tests is less than 5-7%. In the publication: Oligonucleotide Microarrays for Clinical Diagnosis of Copy Number Variation (Current Protocols in Human Genetics ; 58:8.12.1-8.12.17), Miller et al have clearly discussed the advantages of using microarray over FISH for evaluation of children with developmental delay, and for other clinical indications such as multiple congenital anomalies and autism spectrum disorders. In addition, since GenomeDx is a one-step process, this test will also save significant time and other costs related to multiple appointments, blood draws, and insurance claims.

In summary, knowledge of this patient's genetic information is important for me to more accurately assess his/her clinical condition and will guide my recommendations for his/her care. I am specifying GeneDx because this laboratory has the most sensitive and specific test for developmental abnormalities.

Thank you for your review and consideration. I hope you will support this request for genetic testing coverage for [patient full name]. If you have questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at [physician phone#].

Sincerely,

[Physician full name], MD

cc: [patient full name]