



Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness

SAMPLE COVER LETTER TO TEACHER / COACH

[for you to personalize]

Dear [name of coach or teacher]:

The international brachial plexus injury community is celebrating the Annual International Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week during the [date]. On behalf of individuals or families affected by brachial plexus injuries, we invite you to join us in observing this week by learning more about these injuries.

Brachial plexus injuries are traumatic injuries to the nerves in the neck /shoulder area that can result in full to partial paralysis of one or both arms. Brachial plexus injuries are commonly referred to as Erb's Palsy.

Brachial plexus injuries often occur during the birthing process. Availability of brachial plexus statistics vary widely, but where figures are available the general consensus is that brachial plexus injuries occur in 2-5 out of 1000 births. More children suffer from brachial plexus injuries sustained at birth than Down Syndrome or Muscular Dystrophy – yet information on this disability is not so readily obtained.

Other causes of brachial plexus injuries include: automobile, motorcycle or boating accidents; sports injuries ("burners" or "stingers"); animal bites; gunshot or puncture wounds; as a result of specific medical treatments, procedures or surgeries or due to viral causes. Adults who incur traumatic brachial plexus injuries often suffer from severe and chronic pain and struggle to find support, information, and adequate medical care.

[This paragraph must be personalized to define the specifics of your child's injury and treatments - obpi or tbpi, etc.:] SAMPLE: As you may know, my child sustained an obstetrical (or trauma based) brachial plexus injury. We were fortunate to find the most current information and most respected facility to treat his/her injury, starting in infancy/childhood. It is critical that other families whose children have this injury receive the most current information to facilitate treatment. Children with this injury may have limitations with certain tasks and physiological concerns that may affect how they interact with their peers.

As a coach/teacher in our community you are a direct source of information for both children and parents. We hope that you assist us to "Bring Brachial Plexus Injuries to Light" -our theme this year- to children and families with whom you interact. Please re-view the enclosed materials. I'd be happy to speak to you further about this topic.

Thank you for your time and consideration in helping us bring awareness to our community!

Sincerely,

[Your Name]