



Date:

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to inform you of a medical condition I suffer from called Hidradenitis Suppurativa or HS. HS is a debilitating, chronic, complex inflammatory illness, also referred to as an immune-mediated inflammatory illness and follicle occlusion. It has a huge impact on quality of life physically, mentally, and emotionally. HS consists of extremely painful recurring abscesses that can develop anywhere hair follicles are found. It is possible to experience abscesses or lesions anywhere on our body with the exception of the palms of your hands, soles of your feet, and lips.

There is no cure for HS and treatment options are limited. While HS is not commonly discussed, it is not uncommon. Research reports HS affects as much as 4% of the global population, which includes only diagnosed and reported cases. HS does not discriminate against age, race, sexual orientation, blood type or geographic location.

HS is not contagious and can be embarrassing as it is often accompanied by an odor when an abscess bursts. There are times when additional time is needed in the restroom to care for an abscess or I may need to leave my shift due to pain or soiling clothing due to an abscess rupturing. HS not only affects me physically, but emotionally as well. I appreciate you exercising your discretion when sharing my condition.

Thank you in advance for your understanding. For additional information on my condition please visit [HSconnect.org](https://hsconnect.org).

Sincerely,