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DECLARATION OF JOSEPH L. BRUNNER

I. Joseph L. Brunner, have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto under eath. I declare as follows:

- 1. I have been a speech therapist for 27 years, and I have been a registered nurse for 19 years. I practice at South Bay Hospital in Sun City, Florida. Thave a Masters Degree in Speech Language Pathology.
- 2. In my 27 years of practice, there have been three or four significant developments that have some along to change what we are doing in therapy. VitalStim is one of those developments. Marcy Freed working on this electrical stimulation to the throat and experimenting with it, came up with VitalStim and patented it (she used the approach on 832 patients in her research and 97% had an advancement in dietary consistency).
- 3. VitalStim is the only device cleared by the FDA for neuromuscular electrical stimulation to the throat for the remediation of dysphagia. Currently there are probably 2000 practitioners certified to administer it. The longest that I know of anyone who has been administering the therapy has been 2 and ½ to 3 years, so this is a new treatment.
- 4. Using anditional methods, before VitalStim, there might be 35% to 40% improvement in my practice in terms of returning people to some form of oral nutrition and hydration. I started doing VitalStim in mid September of 2004. I have had patients who have had stomach tubes removed. On everyone I have worked with so far, there has been advancement in terms of dietary consistency, if not a return to complete oral hydration and nutrition.
- 5. There is a possibility Terri Schiavo could benefit from VitalStim therapy. First of all, she would need to have a physician order to do any of this, then she should have a bedside clinical exam (consisting of an oral motor evaluation, which consist of looking and seeing what the facial structure is like and then internally the oral structure and physiology and looking at how healthy

Declarant initials 18

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1	the teeth and gums are). Then depending on the condition of the individual you would probably
2	try a trial or two or more oral substances, like nectar, etc., or immediately go to the video
3	swallow if you think she may initiate a swallow. I have used this procedure with outpatients, as
4	well as those in ICU,
5	I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Florida that the
6	foregoing is true and correct.
7	Executed this 7th day of March 2005, in 13/1/Shoraugh Florida.
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10	Jag how Chunner
ш	Joseph L. Brunner, Doelarant
12	Personally known to me and signed before me on this 1th day of Manch, 2005,
13	in Hillsky many, Florida.
14	Karen M. Dass A Commission # DD332321
15	Expires June 24, 2008 Control Tray February Inc. 600-300-3012;
16	Notary Signature
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