



**Figure 7-1.** The subjective section of a SOAP note. (Reprinted with permission from Erickson M, Utzman R, McKnight R. *Physical Therapy Documentation: From Examination to Outcome*. Thorofare, NJ: SLACK Incorporated; 2012.)

## Example 7-2

### Subjective Component of an Initial Evaluation

- S:** *Demographics:* 32-year-old right-handed Caucasian female; English speaking; completed 2 years of undergraduate college education.
- Social History:* Pt. lives at home with her husband and 7-year-old son. Three steps with a railing to enter her one level home. Pt.'s husband works during the day and her son goes to school. Her husband has been taking time off from work to stay with her during the day, but will have to return to work this week. Pt. has various friends and family who have agreed to help during the day until she is safe to be alone at home. Pt. normally active with taking son to after-school activities.
- Employment Status:* She is normally employed as a bank teller, but is unable to return to work at this time due to fatigue issues and "clumsiness."
- General Health Status:* Pt. reports prior to this last exacerbation that she was in good health. Her primary activities included work, home care, and tending to her son, who participated in a variety of after-school activities.
- Medical History:* Pt. reports that she has not had any other issues that had required medical attention other than the birth of her son and typical illnesses (eg, colds, flu).
- Current Condition:* Pt. states that she was diagnosed with progressive MS 2 years ago. On 7/1/17 she had an exacerbation of her MS that led her to be hospitalized for 3 days of IV anti-inflammatory medications. She was discharged to home on 7/4/17 with a wheeled walker. She was receiving physical therapy while in the hospital. During her follow-up visit with her physician on 7/7/17 pt. requested more physical therapy due to balance and coordination problems. Pt. currently complains of "being unsteady on my feet," and being "clumsy with everything." Pt. reports that she will be receiving occupational therapy to address coordination problems that interfere with daily functioning.
- Functional Status:* Pt. states that she was previously independent with all activities of daily living and gait without an assistive device, but has been using a wheeled walker with assistance at home and a wheelchair for limited trips outside of the home due to her unsteadiness. She reports having purchased the wheeled walker from a friend at church and borrowing the wheelchair from her mother-in-law. Pt.'s *Goals:* Pt. states that she would like to be able to walk without an assistive device, to return to work, and to be able to do housework.