

Date:

Medical Equipment Request and Justification

RE: _____

DOB: _____

History:

_____ is a __-year-old male, who sustained a C 5-6 spinal cord injury on __-__-_____. _____ functions as a C 5-6 quadriplegic, is dependant on a power wheelchair for his mobility needs and. _____ lives with his parents in a home environment with minimal attendant care. It is our desire to supply as complete a picture as possible with a letter. Should you need any additional information, please contact us and we would be happy to assist in any way we can.

_____ has been evaluated for the following equipment by a team consisting of his physicians, therapists, attendants, equipment specialists and other individuals involved with his necessity to be actively involved in a standing program. The following information has been gathered for your review to document the need for the specific requested product. This document is meant to provide any needed information to make sure that the proper standing device be obtained for him with a minimum of delay.

Evaluation:

_____ has been evaluated in a standing frame for proper and safe standing protocols while in the hospital and has been active in a standing program. Following are some of the considerations and results from this evaluation. This is not a complete list but just some of the major points of review that were examined.

Client UE strength and function: _____ has limited hand grasp and strength due to his injury however he is able to utilize his UE function while standing in the Symmetry stander. His position in this product allows him to reach and range his upper extremities and perform multiple tasks.

Evaluation of his seated position: _____ sits fairly symmetrically with his feet on the wheelchair footplates. The predictable chain of events for a client at this level applies to what we see currently with this client. Even this soon after injury we notice that the client sits with in a mild posterior pelvic tilt creating a sacral posture and a mild kyphosis due to his limited sitting balance. The best treatment to stretch those areas and reduce the effect of sitting for extended periods is standing in a fully weight bearing posture. Not continuing his standing program may create back pain, neck pain and pressure, positional instability and respiratory involvement in a short period of time.

Evaluation of lower extremity position and function: _____ lower extremities position to neutral with mild extensor tone. He shows some tightness in his hips, knees and ankles regardless of the passive ROM program that he performs or is performed with him. Also prominent is his lower extremity extensor spasticity in both LE's. He has addressed his contractures, spasticity and tightness while in the standing program at the hospital successfully. Passive stretching will not fully stretch his contractures and progression of them could be very dangerous for _____ function, skin, and ability to sit. Weight bearing in a proper standing position will address these issues and assist in maintaining his lower extremities in a neutral position.

Environmental concerns: _____ home environment has the space for the needed standing device and doorways of proper size to allow the unit to be moved about and used in all areas, facilitating an easily-maintained standing program.

Current seated posture: While seated, _____ exhibits a mild thoracic kyphosis forcing a posture that over time may compromise his balance, UE function, respiratory status, skin integrity and independence level.

Range of motion: _____ exhibits decreased range in lumbar region of his back with resultant tightness throughout his spinal column and hips, shoulder tightness and decreased range in his neck in extension and flexion. Client shows a marked decrease in the ability to maintain his posture over even a short period of time and an increase in pressures over the day as he continues to sit in a static position.

Skin pressures: _____ had Ischial sores after the original injury which are currently healed. The Symmetry unit prescribed reduces the shear force on his skin and hence reduces the risk of future problems from any pressure or shear force while standing.

Ability to stand: _____ was evaluated for the appropriate product, with the best fit and function being the Symmetry by Prime Engineering. During this evaluation, his contractures were reduced and the stretch that he received was obvious to all of us, including _____. Clients neck and back achieved neutral in standing with his hips being placed in mild hyperextension. His lower neutralized allowing more movement and function of his upper extremities and also allowed him to bring his head to a neutral and correct position. Evaluation of the client has occurred as he was able to use this unit at the hospital with great success and has been able to stand for periods of time up to 90 minutes. A regular home program of standing will allow him in maintaining his sitting balance and reducing any further effect from not weight bearing. Standing on a regular basis will also assist in reducing his lower extremity edema and maintaining his lower extremities in neutral at a level that he would be unable to accomplish or maintain with passive stretching. As is well documented standing has positive effect on pulmonary function, respiratory function, urinary and bowel function,

bone density and multiple other benefits, of which _____ will need at his injury level.

Conclusions:

_____ is at risk for multiple complications due to the lack of proper equipment to stand him in a full upright posture. The predictable path of increased contractures and decreased function and ability due to his injury as time goes on is obvious much of which will be addressed by a consistent standing program. The risks associated with not supplying the proper unit for this client could include elimination of his independence, inability to properly propel his chair, inability to easily dress and performance of normal care becoming very difficult to impossible. The associated health risks for him include skin integrity issues that could be incredibly costly both monetarily and physically.

There is no doubt that without the proper equipment, this client's contractures will continue to progress and his range will decrease. At that point, costs for intervention will increase greatly and a much wider range of equipment will be necessary to treat these problems. It is the intent of this evaluation to show the best use of funds and equipment for this client.

Following is our equipment recommendations and justifications:

Symmetry Adult standing system (see attached brochure): This stander allows for Dennis to be lifted to a fully upright posture and positions his hips into mild hyperextension for full weight bearing. This unit will allow use without the need of having multiple persons to assist and supplies a safe lift with the best possible position for elimination and reduction of his contractures and support in a correct standing posture. This unit also eliminates the risk of shear with its sliding seat and back technology. This system will support all of the client's needs, give a full stretch allowing for the greatest advantage to his postural complications and support his ongoing needs for standing and stretching. The hydraulic component of this system will allow for a no stress lift for client and caregiver. This system also will be able to be modified for future needs without replacement of the complete unit.

Upper Body Pad: This will allow for the client to have an increased anterior contact while standing, facilitating better posture, a greater upper body stretch and a longer standing program.

Solid Sliding Seat: This feature unique to the Symmetry does not add additional cost but does supply the best positioning and pressure relief for Dennis.

Tray: Included in this unit is a tray that allows Dennis to utilize his upper extremity function while in standing.

Solid Sliding Back: The high back is needed due to the client's level of injury and his height. This back moves with him while he moves from sitting to standing and keeps him supported without shearing or sliding against him. The ability of this back to move with him makes sure that he maintains the best possible position while using the equipment.

Part of this review includes the evaluation of the best unit for his needs with the least cost. Due to the UE involvement listed above, _____ would be unable to extend his arms, grip the necessary devices and safely raise or lower himself into any manual type stander. His size and function would also make him unable to use any type of manual stander. The risks associated with a manual stander are unacceptable and there would be no cost savings to place him in a unit that he would be unable to use. The minimal difference in cost to place him in the correct unit is immediately justifiable based on his inability to use a manual stander, along with all of the other considerations and goals for a proper standing protocol.

It is our hope that we have been able to supply all of the information needed to supply this necessary piece of equipment. We have attempted in a few pages to create a document that includes the information that is important to the acquisition of this unit for _____. The information that we have included is what we feel are some of the major points but there are many other reasons that support this decision. Please advise us if there is any other specific information that you would require for the approval of this piece of equipment.

Respectfully Submitted,