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## Medical Equipment Request and Justification

RE: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

### History:

\_\_\_\_\_ is a 30-year-old male 13 years post C 5-6 spinal cord injury. \_\_\_\_\_ functions as a C 5-6 complete quadriplegic, and is dependant on a power wheelchair for his mobility needs. It is our desire to supply as complete a picture as possible with this 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 physician, 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 device be obtained for him with a minimum of delay.

### Evaluation:

\_\_\_\_\_ has been evaluated in a standing frame for proper and safe standing protocols both in a personal environment and while using a 15 year old stander at the local YMCA. 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 Granstand III stander. His position in this product allows him to reach and range his upper extremities and perform multiple tasks. While standing \_\_\_\_\_ is able to work on the range of his upper body and getting his shoulders into a more neutral posture.

Evaluation of his seated position: \_\_\_\_\_ sits fairly symmetrically with his feet on the wheelchair footplates.

Evaluation of lower extremity position and function: \_\_\_\_\_ lower extremities position to neutral with mild extensor tone. He shows some tightness in his hips, and lower back from sitting in his mobility product regardless of the passive ROM program that he performs or is performed with him. He has addressed his tightness successfully by actively pursuing a standing program on his own as much as possible. He has been utilizing an old frame at the local YMCA when he can get the transportation and it is available for his use. By standing on a fairly regular basis \_\_\_\_\_ has continued to reduce his contractures, spasticity and tightness in his lower extremities. Passive stretching will not fully stretch his contractures and progression of them could be very dangerous for \_\_\_\_\_ function, skin, and ability to be properly seated. 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, he currently sits balanced and is able to properly control his chair safely. He exhibits a very mild thoracic kyphosis that has been minimized due to his history of standing and stretching.

Discontinuing, reducing or not at this point getting him into a more consistent standing program may over time compromise his balance, UE function, respiratory status, and skin integrity and independence level.

Range of motion: He exhibits some decreased range in the lumbar region of his back with resultant tightness throughout his spinal column and hips, shoulder tightness and decreased range in extension and flexion.

Skin pressures: The Granstand III unit prescribed reduces the shear force on his skin and hence eliminates the risk of 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 Granstand III by Prime Engineering. During this evaluation, his contractures were reduced and the stretch that he received was

obvious to all of us, including ----- . ----- neck and back achieved neutral in standing with his hips being placed in mild hyperextension. His lower back and legs neutralized allowing more movement and function of his upper extremities and also allowed him to bring his head to a more neutral and correct position. He has been able to successfully use the older unit at the YMCA with good success and has been able to stand for periods of time up to 90 minutes. He is somewhat limited in positioning in that unit due to its age and features. A regular home program of standing will assist him in maintaining his sitting balance and reducing any further effect from not weight bearing. Standing on a more regular basis with current and up to date equipment will also assist in reducing his lower extremity tightness and maintaining his lower extremities in neutral at a level that he would be unable to accomplish or maintain with passive stretching.

#### Conclusions:

----- is at risk for multiple complications due to the lack of proper equipment to stand him in a full upright posture. 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. In this case the evidentiary process on this path is simple since ----- originally started to stand due to neck and back pain, regular problems with bladder infections, problems with his bowel program, problems with his ability to sleep and re-occurrence of lower extremity edema.

The predictable path of increased contractures and decreased function and ability due to his injury has been addressed by his aggressive working to continue a fairly consistent standing program. Mr. ----- found immediate, consistent and continued relief from his neck and back pain, reduction of bladder infections and improvement in his bowel program, he was able to sleep better and his edema was reduced from standing.

There is no doubt that without the proper equipment for this client to continue this program at home this client will lose some of the benefit that he has been able to maintain. 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.

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, he 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.

There is no doubt in any of our minds that this motivated client that has been working hard to be in a standing program for 5 years will be compliant in a personal program with equipment that he has access to. The benefits to this client have been continual and he understands those benefits and works to maximize them with little to no outside intervention. The minimal cost for this equipment is more than justified and we feel that this information comes across clearly in this letter. Following is our equipment recommendations and justifications:

Granstand III Adult standing system (see attached brochure): This stander allows for him 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. The Granstand III unit also eliminates the risk of transfers, decreases the amount of space required to use and allows for lifting directly from the wheelchair. 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 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.

Tray: The Granstand III tray that needs to be modified to a wrap around style tray with elbow pads to support his upper extremities and increase his ability to position himself while standing

Height Adjustable Foot System: This feature allows matching of the footplate height of the client's wheelchair eliminating repositioning and maintaining proper lower extremity alignment. This is very important in Daniel's case due to his height, weight and his foot position while using a power wheelchair that is necessary for him to have mobility. This will also allow the unit to be moved while in use and function as a transfer device. This will decrease the risk of injury for Daniel and his attendant care and allow for an additional function to this unit as a standard feature at no extra charge.

Pull-to-Place Sling (included): This feature allows the Granstand III to be utilized with no lifting required for the client and eliminates risk for injury. A no charge modification to this sling with longer pull to place straps in red to locate them easily against his black cushion and upholstery is also recommended.

Steel Caster Upgrade: Upgrading the standard casters to the steel casters would be recommended due to the height and weight of the client and the areas that the product would be used in.

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 Daniel. 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,