

Medical Equipment Request and Justification

RE: _____

DOB: _____

History:

_____ is a 35 month-old female, she is approximately 31" tall and weighs about 24 pounds. _____ presents with a diagnosis of Diplegic Cerebral Palsy. _____ is dependent on a wheelchair / stroller for her mobility needs and is non-ambulatory due to her diagnosis. It is our desire to supply as complete a picture as possible here within the limitations of 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 her physicians, therapists, attendants, equipment specialists and other individuals involved with her 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 make sure that the proper standing device be obtained for her with a minimum of delay.

Evaluation:

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

Evaluation of lower extremity position and function: At this point _____ lower extremities position to neutral with mild / moderate effort with proper support. She has mild / moderate spasticity in her lower extremities which is common with her diagnosis. She has mild / moderate tightness in her hips, ankles and knees and throughout her lower extremities.

Transfer ability: _____ is a full / minimal assist transfer.

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.

Ability to stand: _____ was evaluated for the appropriate product, with the best fit and function being the Superstand by Prime Engineering. This unit will allow her client to be placed in the most advantageous position currently and bring her to full upright posture as she tolerates it. This stander will support the progressive standing program that she requires as her body learns to stand and weight bear.

Conclusions:

_____ is at risk for multiple complications due to the lack of ability to stand and bear weight as she would within normal childhood development. As with most children with diplegia, spasticity, difficulty with balance and coordination all need to be addressed. Also delayed muscle growth and spasticity may cause her leg muscles to be short, and as a result, the ability to utilize or keep her legs and feet in any normal pattern can decrease as she grows. Without a proper standing program her joints are becoming stiff needing to be addressed with the proper supportive standing device. Without working on proper weight bearing there is risk that the hips may become dislocated creating greater complications for her physical and orthopedic health.

As infants we learn the patterns which supply most of our ability to ambulate, stand, weight bear or just keep a normalized orthopedic structure as we grow. Rolling over teaches extension, arm function and strengthens leg and arms muscles plus trunk and limb girdle muscles in the abdomen. Crawling promotes normal shoulder development, arm extension and function, lower extremity gain, stretching, and strengthening. Learning to stand (which generally involves lots of falling) teaches balance, head control, proper weight bearing and normalized posture. All of these together teach proper proprioceptive skills including long and short-term distance judgment and local environmental evaluation for space, location and the ability to fit ones own body into it. All of these things are what assist us to grow into ambulatory children with normalized posture and functions.

Keeping in mind that all of these things are directly related to standing and are what the basics of the design and necessity of a stander are for. When these items are delayed or as in the case of this young lady, prohibited by some type

of occurrence there needs to be an assisted, safe way to attain some of these same goals for her proper growth.

Without proper standing protocols the predictable path of increased contractures and decreased function and ability due to her diagnosis and time will have a much greater cost and time to address. The risks associated with not supplying the proper unit for this client could include elimination of her independence, difficulty in dressing and seating and performance of normal care becoming very difficult to impossible.

There is no doubt that without the proper equipment, this young lady's lower extremity involvement will continue to progress and her 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 justification for it:

Superstand Pediatric Standing System: This system allows for _____ to be positioned in proper alignment and aid in maintaining her ability to bear weight and allow for proper orthopedic alignment. The angular capabilities of the Superstand allow for _____ to be moved to a fully upright posture as tolerated. This system will support all of the client's needs and support her ongoing needs for standing, alignment and stretching.

Lateral Supports: These supports hold _____ in a straight posture, keeping her symmetrically positioned to make sure that she stands as straight as possible.

Hip Guides: To maintain the best possible standing position, Hip Guides are recommended to assist in supplying a three point positioning system for _____. This will help to maintain the best standing position possible while she is utilizing the equipment.

Standing Angle Adjustment: Changing the angle of standing for _____ will allow for her to be comfortably and safely positioned at a specific angle in space determined by her positioning, muscle strength, function level, and gravity that allows her to work on her head control, upper extremity function, lower

extremity strengthening, upper body balance, proper breathing patterns, normalized pulmonary function and bone strengthening. The adjustable nature of this unit allows for positional change for a goal oriented standing and positioning program.

Tray: This item is necessary to perform proper extension and exercise for the upper extremities on a stable properly angled surface to support normal positioning and function. This also allows for strengthening of the upper extremities, shoulder rotators, elbows wrist and arm muscles. Exercises may include and are not limited to extension, flexion, pronation and supination of the wrists, fine motor exercises for the fingers and hands all on a specific height and angle to maximize the benefit to the client.

It is our hope that we have been able to supply all of the information needed to fund this medically necessary piece of equipment. Please keep in mind we have attempted in a few pages to create a document that includes the information that is important for 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 for her.

Signed _____ Date: _____