



May 2015

FUNDING REQUEST CHECKLIST: STANDING WHEELCHAIRS

A standing wheelchair is a type of assistive technology that can provide long-term medical and quality-of-life benefits for people with disabilities. Adults often need these wheelchairs for bone, skin, circulation, and muscular conditions that result from prolonged sitting. They may also need them for completing activities of daily living. For older children, a standing wheelchair can also aid in their adolescent development. The devices, which come in manual or powered models, are expensive. You will need to strongly support the prior approval application with medical information.

The information provided in this document will assist you in submitting a Medicaid or third-party insurance program funding request.

LETTERS OF MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION (LMJ) OR MEDICAL NEED (LMN)

LMJ or LMN letters should:

- Be written by an ordering or treating practitioner (doctor, therapist, nurse).
- Be signed and dated by the professional who wrote the letter.
- Address the individual's medical history, his/her current status, and the perceived benefits of introducing this device into the individual's care plan.
- Include specific observations about user's experience in multiple environments during equipment loan/lease trial period.
- Include information about other devices that were considered during the user's evaluation period. If less costly devices were considered but ruled out, there should be an explanation about why these devices will not meet the individual's needs.
- Justify the need for a power wheelchair with a standing feature.

SUPPORTING LETTER OF MEDICAL NEED

Individuals with functional motor disabilities often experience a variety of accompanying medical conditions requiring specialist care. Sometimes the standing wheelchair will help correct other medical conditions. When working with an individual, you want to know all of the doctors and health care professionals he or she sees regularly. Use the following list of medical specialties and sub-specialties to identify medical professionals who might support the individual's acquiring this device. See the sample letter for information that you might want to suggest be included in their letter of support.

Rehabilitative Physiatry
Cardiology
Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician
Gastroenterologist
Nephrology
Neurology
Neuromuscular Medicine
Neurodevelopmental Disability Medicine
Orthopedist
Pulmonologist

Pain Medicine
Rheumatology
Urology
Vascular Medicine
Vascular Neurology
Occupational or Physical Therapy
Speech Therapy or Pathology
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)
Chiropractic

VIDEOS AND PHOTOS

Videos should be planned in advance. The video should clearly capture the user's ability to safely and effectively use the wheelchair and come to a stand. When you videotape the individual using the device be sure to do the following:

- Practice for several days before capturing its use on videotape.
- Identify the user, the requested equipment, and the Medicaid prior approval number in the video.
- Identify what events you want to show in the video (e.g., familiarity with using the wheelchair, completion of activities of daily living, using the standing feature, and the ability for the user to maneuver around several common environments such as home, school, outdoors).
- Ask someone who has not seen the video to review and comment on its contents.

When taking a picture of a person, remember to keep it dignified.

- Take several pictures from different angles and choose only those that are clear, have good lighting, and convey exactly what you want the reviewer to see.
- If you want to use an object as a reference for size (e.g., an open decubitus or pressure sore, use objects that are easily identifiable so that people have an idea of their size.) A dollar bill is approximately six inches.
- Include the identity of the individual in the picture by name, prior approval number, and the purpose of the picture (e.g., Marvin Black, PA#, request for standing wheelchair, decubitus in region of the coccyx).

EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Evidence-based research should be used to support the user's diagnosis and the accepted standard of care. It should be referenced in the LMJ when speaking about the effect or correction of a certain condition. Include a copy of the literature or a website link. Articles should be current and on point.

SAMPLE LETTERS

- [Sample Letter of Medical Justification for a Standing Wheelchair](#)
- [Sample Supporting Letter of Medical Justification for a Standing Wheelchair](#)
- Sample Letter of Medical Justification can be found at Newsletter, *Medicaid Can Fund Standing Wheelchairs*
www.nls.org/files/IMPACT%20Newsletters/IMPACTSummer2012.pdf

OTHER RESOURCES

- *Did You Know* series, "Medicaid Can Fund Standing Wheelchairs,"
<http://www.nls.org/Disability/NationalAssistiveTechnologyProject/DidYouKnow/Medicaid/StandingWheelchairs>
- Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Position on the Application of Wheelchair Standing Devices – Position Paper on the Application of Wheelchair Standing Devices: 2013 Current State of the Literature
http://www.resna.org/sites/default/files/legacy/resources/position-papers/RESNAStandingPositionPaper_Dec2013.pdf

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Please contact: Marge Gustas at Neighborhood Legal Services at 716-847-0655 ext. 256 or by email at mgustas@nls.org

Assistive Technology (AT) Funding Toolkits are a collaborative project of the Justice Center's TRAIID Program and the National AT Advocacy Project of Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc., Buffalo, New York.