

**SAMPLE SUPPORTING LETTER
MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR PEDIATRIC POWER WHEELCHAIR WITH ACCESSORIES**

Your Address
Your CSZ
Your email address

Date

Name
Address
CSZ

Re: Mackenzie Doe's Request for Medicaid Prior Approval: Power Wheelchair and Accessories

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Mackenzie Doe's Occupational Therapist and I am writing this letter in support of her request for a pediatric power wheelchair with accessories. I have been a practicing therapist for 20 years, specializing in the needs of children six years of age and under.

I concur with Mackenzie's physical therapist regarding her medical need for a power wheelchair. Specifically, I would like to address the medical need for a seat elevator on her power wheelchair. Mackenzie is a 24-month-old child with an undiagnosed idiopathic gross motor development that affects the muscles in her upper and lower extremities, trunk, and neck. I provide 30-minute Occupational Therapy services for her three times per week. During those sessions we work on fine motor development skills such as grasping her favorite color crayon and holding it in her hand so she can color. We also work on having her grasp her spoon, her drinking cup, a joy stick actuator for her favorite video game, and certain finger foods.

Providing Mackenzie with the ability to sit at different heights and participate in different activities will introduce her to a variety of social interactions where she will imitate both good and bad behaviors that will impact her development. For example, when eating with other children her age, she will see that they use their spoons, and will learn that the proper way to feed herself is with her spoon. The ability to see and imitate activities not only fosters communication and social norms, it also allows her to use concepts that she has learned in therapy, and apply them correctly. It is important for Mackenzie to see and experience as many different social interactions as possible in a variety of environments such as school, home, other houses or a shopping mall. Without the seat elevator, she will lose this developmental opportunity.

Due to the weakness in her upper extremities and her trunk, Mackenzie struggles to reach out to grab and then hold an object against gravity. Holding her arm in an unsupported position causes her to fatigue, and this fatigue affects not only the rest of her body, but also her desire to complete the task at hand. In order for her to be able to successfully participate in therapy, and then use what she is learning in all of her customary environments, she must rest her arms on a

table or other support surface to be able to reach. Table heights and supporting surfaces will be at different levels in all of Mackenzie's customary environments. The seat elevator on her wheelchair will allow her to reach different table heights or other supporting surfaces. For example, Mackenzie can drink a glass of milk with a straw. She will want to position the glass where she feels the most comfortable for drinking. She cannot pick up the glass of milk, but she can raise her wheelchair seat to the appropriate table height, rest her arms on the table, and push and drag her cup until it is located where she wants it.

Finally, as Mackenzie gets older, she will start learning how to do more things for herself. She will figure out how to manipulate different objects and situations in order to meet her needs. She needs to have every opportunity to learn how to control her environment and cope with her condition. The seat elevator on her wheelchair will assist in providing many different opportunities such as learning how to prepare meals, learning proper hygiene rituals, and learning how to control her immediate environment like cleaning her room or setting up her room in a manner that allows her to be more functional.

Therefore, as a pediatric Occupational Therapist who has been practicing for 20 years, it is my professional opinion that it is medically necessary for Mackenzie to have a power wheelchair with accessories, including a seat elevator to ameliorate the effects of her condition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at xxx-xxx-xxxx or email me at xxxx. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name/Title