

SAMPLE SUPPORTING LETTER MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR STANDING WHEELCHAIR

Your Address
Your CSZ
Your email address

Date

Name
Address
CSZ

Re: John Doe's Request for Medicaid Prior Approval;
Power Wheelchair with Standing Feature and Accessories

To Whom It May Concern:

I am John Doe's speech pathologist and I am writing this letter in support of his prior approval request for a power wheelchair with a standing feature and accessories.

John is a 17-year-old male with a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy (CP), presenting as spastic tetraplegia. He also has a kyphoscoliosis. Both of John's arms are involved, his left more so than his right. He receives speech therapy three times a week, with each session lasting 30 minutes.

Due to John's kyphotic posture, his upper trunk is rounded forward pushing both his lungs and diaphragm down in his trunk cavity. When he sits in his wheelchair his lower trunk area and the organs contained in that region make a floor compressing his lungs and diaphragm. This compression makes it hard for John to take in the necessary amount of oxygen needed for speaking. The result is John must take two or three breaths to complete a sentence making his speech very choppy. Between each of these breathes, as John starts to lose his breath, his words will trail away becoming harder to hear. Because John is not able to express his thoughts nor is he able to maintain sufficient oxygen in his lungs to clearly articulate what he needs to say, he presents with a choppy, inaudible speech pattern. Very often, communication attempts become frustrated because John must repeat himself several times or his communication partner cannot understand what he is trying to say.

In therapy, we work on John's breathing while speaking so that he can more fully express himself. Whenever possible, John will have speech therapy using a stander at school. When John is using the stander, the floor that is made by his body when sitting falls away and his upper trunk is pulled slightly back allowing for more room and less compression of the lungs and the diaphragm. With this extra space in the trunk cavity, John can take a deeper breath more

fully utilizing his lungs. This gives him the necessary breath to complete both words and sentences. It also increases the volume of his speech, making him a more effective communicator.

John needs a standing feature on his wheelchair that he can independently operate so that he is a more effective communicator. Even though he may not stand every time he speaks or someone speaks to him, he can stand when he is having a protracted dialog with his communication partner. This will make for effective communication with his doctors, his therapists, authority figures such as teachers and parents, and his peers. The more often he stands to speak, the better his speech patterns will become and there will be less frustration between John and his communication partners.

If there are any ideational questions or concerns that need to be answered, please feel free to contact me at xxx-xxx-xxxx or by email at xxxx.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Title