

Letter of Justification for Durable Medical Equipment

Recommended Equipment: Quickie Iris Manual Wheelchair with accessories

Estimated length of need in months: lifetime

History of decubitis/skin breakdown: according to the family there are no ulcers on his body at this time. However, he has a history of skin break down and is at risk of developing ulcers due to spending many hours in a wheelchair and not having any use of his extremities. There is impaired sensation in the area of contact with the seating surface.

Postural asymmetries: Due to having weakness in the trunk muscles and severe spasticity, as well as developing scoliosis. In addition, his poor sitting balance and spasticity makes it more difficult to maintain his postural control.

Other physical limitations: Javen is non-ambulatory and relies on his MWC for all ADL and MRADL activities.

Recent or expected changes in condition: None expected.

Level of independence in mobility: As stated above, Javen is non-ambulatory and is unable to use a cane or a walker. He is currently using a 5-year old chair, which is no longer appropriate for him.

Alternatives considered: We considered repairing his current chair. Medicaid denied this request stating it is not cost effective to repair and that a new chair should be pursued. A standard wheelchair was considered however due to Javen's medical condition, weakness and no functional ROM, he would need a tilt-in-space chair in order to meet his medical needs and allow for maximal positioning support. The seating system requested is a skin protection seat cushion for adequate postural positioning and pressure relief. As he is unable to functionally weight shift a skin protection cushion is needed, a basic less expensive cushion would not be appropriate. A positioning back with laterals is being requested for adequate back support and a less expensive back would not provide sufficient support.

Transfer capabilities: Javen is dependent in all transfers.

Feeding: Dependent in feeding.

ADL capabilities: Javen is dependent in all ADLs and MRADLs such as feeding, toileting, grooming, traveling, school, and medical appointments. Having a TIS MWC will allow for participation in all ADLs and MRADLs safely.

Living arrangements: Javen lives in a wheelchair accessible residence in Brooklyn with his family.

Current equipment and seating: as previously mentioned presently Javen is using a 5-year old chair. The chair is no longer appropriate for him as he has outgrown it; it needs a new seating system and many replacement parts. It would not be cost effective to repair this chair as well as add a new seating system to it.

Has a basic positioning cushion been ruled out: Yes, due to having poor sitting balance, being at high risk of skin breakdown; Javen is in need of a more supportive and pressure relieving seating. The recommended seat and back cushion will allow for comfort, pressure relief and adequate postural support.

Recommended equipment:

BioDynamics Positioning back with depth adjustable hardware: Proper positioning of his back is necessary to support the trunk and provide optimal postural alignment. This is necessary as Javen presents with significant postural asymmetries such as decreased trunk control and developing scoliosis and cannot sit without support due to weakness; thus he cannot utilize less expensive seating. Depth adjustable hardware will be necessary to achieve proper positioning and modifications as his condition changes.

BioDynamics Lateral Trunk Supports: This will help maintain his trunk in neutral alignment in order to prevent further skeletal deformities. Javen tends to lean to either side due to weakness in the trunk.

BioDynamics Positioning Seat Cushion: This seat cushion will help to evenly distribute pressure, reduce sacral sitting, and assist in proper postural positioning. Javen presents with significant postural asymmetries such as pelvic obliquity due to tone and requires a positioning cushion to properly support him; a less expensive cushion would not provide adequate support.

BioDynamics Hip Guides: Required to maintain hips in neutral as Javen presents with pelvic obliquity and high tone.

BioDynamics Solid seat insert: needed to mount the new positioning cushion.

BioDynamics Bio Curve 2 headrest: The headrest will provide adequate head and neck support as well as safety during transportation to prevent neck injury.

BioDynamics Medial knee support: needed to maintain hips in neutral as he presents with his hips adducted due to high tone.

BioDynamics Chest Strap: The chest strap will provide proper positioning of his shoulders and trunk and overall appropriate postural alignment thereby decreasing risk of muscle shortening at the chest. In addition, this feature provides safety during transportation preventing the trunk from leaning forward.

BioDynamics Upper Extremity Support Surface: Javen's medical need for positioning in a wheelchair cannot be met with less costly alternatives such as any combination of a safety belt, pelvic strap, harness, prompts, armrest modifications, recline, tilt in space or other existing or potential seating or wheelchair features. Javen has the ability to effect knowing and purposeful position changes using the Upper Extremity Support Surface.

Growth potential and need for future modifications: We anticipate that this chair will be appropriate for Indrit for the next 5-6 years without requiring major modifications.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions please call us at 555-5555.

Sincerely,