

## Letter of Justification for Durable Medical Equipment

### **Dear Medicare/Medicaid Administrator:**

Marilyn was brought to “ABC” Clinic and was evaluated for a manual wheelchair. Marilyn came with her mother, who supplied relevant background information. The following information is provided to demonstrate the necessity of the requested equipment.

### **Introduction:**

Marilyn is a 38-year old, non-verbal, non-ambulatory female with diagnosis of Spastic CP, MR, and Seizure Disorder. She resides in a wheelchair accessible residence in Brooklyn. As per the caregivers, the residence is fully wheelchair accessible.

Marilyn was referred to the “ABC” Clinic for evaluation of a new manual wheelchair. She is currently using an old TIS MWC from 2002. The current chair no longer meets her medical needs due to having many parts broken beyond repair, seating system not accommodating her skeletal deformities and a rusted frame. A new manual wheelchair with tilt-in-space feature is required for Marilyn for comfort, pressure relief to prevent skin breakdown and mobility within her residence. Marilyn currently has Stage 1 skin breakdown on her buttocks.

### **Clinical/Functional Status:**

Marilyn is non-ambulatory and utilizes a manual MWC for all her mobility needs. She is unable to self-propel a manual wheelchair due to muscle weakness and unable to use a cane or a walker due to not being able to bear weight on B/L Les. She is dependent on others in all areas of mobility, transfers, self-care and activities of daily living. She is incontinent in bowel and bladder control. Marilyn has weakness and atrophy of her muscles, shows signs of spasticity and has difficulty speaking and swallowing. She was unable to actively extend both knees with verbal feedback while sitting for a few seconds with the help of the caregivers. However, there is no active range of motion on bilateral hip and knee flexion, hip extension, abduction and adduction and ankle dorsiflexion and plantarflexion.

Upper extremities are non-functional due to weakness. She presents with bilateral elbows in flexion contractures. In addition, she currently has stage 1 ulcers on both of her buttocks.

She needs maximal assistance along with pillows to assume and maintain sitting position. She was unable to maintain supported trunk sitting secondary to poor lateral trunk strength. She was also unable to keep the neck and head in extension for a long period of time. Because of her inability to resist gravity, her sitting posture is marked by flexing and posterior pelvic tilt. She is not able to bear weight on both lower extremities.

Marilyn is unable to perform a functional weight shift and is at high risk of developing pressure ulcers. She requires frequent positioning changes of her body during the day to prevent skin breakdown and requires the assistance of others to perform these duties throughout the day.

### **Equipment Recommendations:**

#### **BioDynamics Custom solid back insert with lateral trunk supports with adjustable hardware:**

Proper positioning of her back is necessary to support the trunk and provide optimal postural alignment. This is necessary as Marilyn presents with decreased trunk control, scoliosis, and rotation in her spine; as a result she cannot utilize an off the shelf seating system. Adjustable hardware will be necessary to achieve proper positioning and modifications as her condition changes. The lateral trunk supports will help maintain her trunk in neutral alignment in order to prevent further skeletal deformities.

**BioDynamics custom solid seat with hip guides:** This seat cushion will help to evenly distribute pressure, reduce sacral sitting, and assist in proper postural positioning. The solid seat support will be required for mounting of the seat cushion. Marilyn is not able to carry out a functional weight shift. In addition, she tends to lean over to either side during the day; as a result a custom positioning seating system would be necessary. Marilyn presents with scoliosis and pelvic obliquity; as a result she cannot use an off the shelf seating system and requires a custom made seat to accommodate her postural deformities and for pressure relief. The hip guides will ensure neutral positioning of her hips while sitting and reduce chance of hip dislocation.

**20" seat depth:** this depth is necessary to accommodate Marilyn's sacrum to popliteal fossa measurement of 20".

**BioDynamics Standard seat pan:** needed to properly mount the custom seat.

**BioDynamics Headrest with removable and adjustable hardware:** This will keep Marilyn's head upright. With her head upright, she can see better for therapeutic activities and promote social interaction. It will also support her head when her wheelchair is tilted back to allow for improved positioning and pressure relief. This is also necessary for safety in transportation preventing head and neck hyperextension injuries since Marilyn has limited strength, head, and neck control. The hardware is needed to remove the headrest during transfers and to adjust to accommodate her head.

**Bioform chest support:** Marilyn will require a harness due to having poor sitting balance and having a tendency to lean forward, the harness will aid in keeping a proper sitting posture by preventing her from leaning forward.

**BioDynamics Upper Extremity Support Surface:** Marilyn'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. Marilyn has the ability to effect knowing and purposeful position changes using the upper extremity support surface.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to call us at (555) 555-5555.

Sincerely,