



Advice on writing a successful Letter of Medical Necessity for Standing Power Mobility

Rule #1

Focus on the one or two most important medical problems facing your client and how the standing feature will facilitate improved functional outcomes in the short term. Standing has many long term benefits that can help a wheelchair user, but the reviewer is most interested in the medical problem that is current and pertinent to your client. For example, a strong medical justification would be that frequent standing would improve the client's ROM, which is being lost, and can help with urine drainage to help prevent the frequent urinary tract infections the client is having. Standing can also help with bone density and many other medical problems, but if the client is not having issues with these problems, the insurance company does not see this as a priority. With that said, it will help to also list the other standing benefits that facilitate good health for the client as a secondary justification.

Rule #2

The medical reviewer is looking for a strong medical necessity that will justify the cost. Although the stander can enable the client to be more independent and it could cut down on caregiver hours, the reviewer is mostly looking for a primary medical justification. The advantaged of improved ADL should be mentioned later in the letter, as an added benefit.

Rule #3

Is there a less costly alternative to have the client stand? Explain that during your evaluation with the client, you explored other power standing systems, as well as stationary standing products, and you determined that this was the least costly and most appropriate system. Usually the reason is that it is unrealistic or unsafe for the caregiver to get the person in and out of other devices to get the required standing time to be therapeutic.

Rule #4

The client's comprehensive therapeutic standing program should be explained. The reviewer wants to be sure that the standing feature is used as a therapy device and not only as a convenience. They want to know when, how long, and how frequently your client will be standing. Research suggests that a person should, depending on endurance, build up standing to more than one hour per day, every day. It is important to explain that the individual and family/caregivers are all educated in the operation of the system; they understand the importance of standing and have expressed their commitment to follow through with the requirements of the program.

Rule #5

Give your expert opinion on what the medical consequences will be if this person is not standing frequently. Will they continue to have more UTI problems? Will they need corrective surgery? Do you expect they may have more pressure sore issues? Will more antispasmodic medication be needed?

Rule#6

Add pictures of the client standing in the system and supporting research studies supporting your medical justification. Supporting information can be found on many of the standing manufactures' websites, also RESNA's position paper on standing wheelchairs, has very good references, (http://www.rstce.pitt.edu/RSTCE_Resources/Resna_position_on_wheelchair_standers.pdf)

