

Letter of Justification for J. (Lateral Tilt)

J. is a 62 year-old female with a diagnosis of MS currently residing in The Boston Home. J. was referred to PT for an assessment of seating and mobility needs due to her complaints of excessive need for repositioning in her power wheelchair. She requests assistance 3 to 4 times a day. Her chair is 9 years old and is unable to be modified any further. She complains of difficulty driving her wheelchair in tight spots due to length of system. J. currently uses a Quickie power wheelchair.

J. has a scoliosis that we are unable to support using standard lateral trunk support pads. Although the support pads appear to maintain J. in good alignment, she continues to move out of good alignment when performing functional activities. She frequently requests repositioning of trunk and pelvis. A complete range of motion assessment was performed to determine limitations that affect seating. The following problems were identified: J. exhibits good range of motion in both lower extremities with the exception of some tightness in ankle dorsiflexion. Left foot needs to be positioned in slight plantar flexion to accommodate ankle contracture. J. exhibits a left thoracic trunk scoliosis. She can be straightened on the mat to neutral but is unable to maintain independently. Good mobility noted in pelvis with the exception of inability to achieve a right obliquity. She is able to attain neutral obliquity but her tendency is to shift toward a left obliquity. Head and neck range of motion functional. Trunk scoliosis and pelvic obliquity affect J.' comfort and ability to maintain good postural alignment when sitting in the wheelchair.

After performing a thorough assessment including assessing range of motion for seating, seating simulation and testing of various equipment, the following has been determined:

- Difficulty maneuvering indoors
- Chair doesn't perform to client' skills
- Difficulty maneuvering outdoors
- Chair does not laterally tilt
- Chair can not be modified due to age

Following is a list of goals for J. to address needs:

- Improve ADL skills when in wheelchair including washing, brushing and accessing computer.
- Improve postural alignment when sitting in the wheelchair for improved comfort.
- Improve ability to reposition self for increased independence and comfort throughout the day.

J.' current power wheelchair is over 9 years old and can not be modified any longer. J. has difficulty maintaining good postural alignment throughout the day and becomes uncomfortable when not sitting straight in the wheelchair. Function also decreases when sitting poorly. J. continues to need a standard tilt-in-space seating system for pressure relief. She also tested a lateral tilt system and determined that this system would be beneficial for improving postural alignment

and negating the affects of her scoliosis. Her comfort improved when trying this system and she did not have to request positioning changes increasing her independence. J. preferred driving a center wheel drive wheelchair rather than her current rear wheel drive system for improved ease to mobilize the wheelchair and get in and out of tight spots. She had less fatigue when driving this system due to less steps involve for turning the wheelchair and accessing sink and computer.

Invacare TDX SP

J. tested the Quickie Rhythm and Jazzy 6000 wheelchair but was dissatisfied with the drive on these chairs. She was most comfortable with the drive on the Invacare wheelchair. The chair was the smoothest for her to drive and provided her with the best maneuverability. She preferred the center wheel system over her current rear wheel drive wheelchair for improved access to her bathroom and her room. She continues to be a safe driver in the center wheel system.

Invacare MPJ +Rehab Joystick and Two TASH Microlite Switches

J. was able to operate the buttons on the hand control and see the display with ease to know what mode she was in. She preferred using the joystick to change her position rather than using a separate switch. She was able to change her speed with the speed dial knob. She occasionally had difficulty changing the modes and turning the chair off so 2 separate TASH microlite switches will be necessary to activate these functions. This will ensure her independence on days that she may have increased weakness due to her MS.

Motion Concepts Lateral Tilt and Standard Tilt-in-Space Seating System

J. frequently requests repositioning of her body in her current tilt-in-space system even though she is able to tilt herself rearward. This movement does not assist with improving trunk alignment and decreasing the effects of her scoliosis. The lateral tilt system provided J. with the ability to adjust the wheelchair to accommodate her scoliosis. She could feel the difference in her body when using this type of system.

Motion Concepts Multi Position Flat Arm Pads with Height Adjustable Armrests
Arm position is important for J. for stability and postural alignment. The wide armpads provide J. with full arm support for increased comfort.

Motion Concepts 70° Swingaway Footrests with Angle Adjustable Footplates.

J. needs good foot support for lower extremity stability and optimal postural alignment of lower legs and feet.

Gel Batteries and Flat Free Tires

Maintenance free batteries are needed for safety and proper care of wheelchair in a long-term care setting. Flat free tires are needed to ensure long-term safety when driving the wheelchair.

Swingaway Joystick Hardware and Tie Down Brackets

The swingaway joystick hardware will assist J. in getting closer to tables, sink and computer for maximum independence during functional activities. The tie down system is necessary to ensure safety while being transported to medical appointments.

Roho Seat Cushion

J. has been using a Roho seat cushion for many years and skin has continued to be maintained in good condition. J. continues to need this cushion for pressure relief.

Use Current AES Back Support System

J.'s back support and lateral trunk supports are in good condition and comfortable for J.. No changes needed to the system at this time.

Right lateral Hip Guide

A new pad is needed to replace the current torn hip guide.

Use Existing Posalink Lateral Knee Supports

The current posalink knee pads are in good condition and can continue to be used for positioning.

Lateral Foot Pads

J. uses lateral walls to control her foot position. The pads are torn and need to be replaced.

Thank you for your assistance in funding the above equipment.

Sincerely,

Faith Saftler Savage, PT, ATP

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