



LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat

Sample Letter of Medical Necessity



Introduction

(Describe your relationship with the client, their disability, and the product requested.)

As _____'s therapist, I am requesting insurance funding for a LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat. This DME has been prescribed by _____'s physician and is a medical necessity that would not be used in the absence of disability, illness, or injury. A seating system is an essential part of her postural management program. It will support _____ in a symmetrical, functional position enabling him/her to partake in many typical activities of daily living (ADL) such as feeding, eating, and playing. Correct seating will also improve communication and socializing with family and friends, thereby promoting both neurological and musculoskeletal development.

What follows is a breakdown of _____'s clinical needs.

Diagnosis & Disability

(Describe the child's ability to sit, stand, walk, and transfer including the amount of assistance needed for each activity. Where appropriate, describe other related equipment in use, such as mobility devices, mechanical lifts, etc. This may include a therapist's evaluation in place of this narrative.)

_____ is a _____-year-old boy/girl who was diagnosed with _____.

Sensory and communication: He/she has sensory integration disorder and presents with reduced cognition. He/she is non-verbal with greatly delayed communication and social skills.

Strength and tone: _____ has (fluctuating/low/high/mixed) tone with decreased strength in his/her trunk. He/she has some degree of passive postural control in his/her head and upper trunk but has very limited active and reactive control. He/she has limited motor control of his/her upper and lower limbs and is unable to use cutlery, hold a pencil, sit, stand, or walk independently.

Range of movement: _____ has a normal range of movement in his/her knees but has a reduced range of movement in his/her right hip due to tight hip adductors.

Surgery and medications: _____ had bilateral tenotomies last year and receives Botulinum-A injections every 6 months.

Equipment and transfers: _____ has a standing frame, a toileting aid, and a stroller. He/she uses AFOs for 4-5 hours/day and is currently lifted for transfers.

What are the implications for the child and caregivers without a LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat?

(Include details about the current equipment used, how the child is currently supported, and detail anything specific as to why this method may not currently work.)

_____ does not have sufficient postural control to sit in a standard chair. He/she adopts a posterior pelvic tilt with thoracic kyphosis and chin poke. This means that he/she is missing out on opportunities to develop fine and gross motor control through everyday activities such as playing, feeding, and drinking. He/she is also missing out on communication and interaction with friends and family as he/she sits in a passive reclined position in his/her stroller.

_____ 's family has tried to support him/her at a regular table and chair for short periods, but this is awkward and uncomfortable for them, and due to sudden uncontrolled movements, they have concerns about his/her safety. _____ does not have alternative seating at home so when he/she lies on a sofa or lies on the floor, the family must bend over to pick him/her up. Both these circumstances are causing issues with the back strain of the caregivers and increased risk for falls and resulting fractures for _____, which will further increase as he/she gets bigger and would put the caregivers at risk of future personal injury claims.

_____ 's muscle tone is asymmetrical causing him/her to be at risk of scoliosis. If left unsupported he/she is at risk of developing a spinal deformity and pelvic migration which is associated with hip migration, surgery, and pain. He/she is also at risk of developing hip, knee, and ankle joint contractures.

What are the clinical benefits of the LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat?

(Explain how this product would specifically benefit your client, in terms of mental and physical wellbeing. Adjust the suggestions below to suit the individual benefits to the child.)

Per review of pertinent research, the benefits of the Everyday Activity Seat are as follows:

Posture: A review by Chung *et al* (2008) on the effect of adaptive seating on sitting posture/postural control in children with cerebral palsy found that significant improvements in posture were reported using seat inserts, external supports, and modular seating systems.

Joint stability: Hip displacement is a known risk for children with limited motor ability. Occurring as young as 2-3 years, it is associated with many negative side effects in sitting, sleeping, and with hygiene. An expert review (McClellan, 2014) of the evidence for positioning equipment to prevent hip migration recommended that seats should have: lateral supports at the pelvis, trunk, and head; shaped seat to encourage abduction and external rotation; and aligned foot position. For children aged 0-2 years, daily use is recommended while for children aged 2-6 years, up to 6 hours/day for 'feeding, fine motor control, interaction and mobility.'

Function: In 2017 Sahinoğlu compared the effectiveness of seating adaptations on postural alignment and function and reported significant favorable benefits to improved head, trunk, and foot control as well as arm and hand function using seating systems compared to standard chairs.

Attention: An investigation by Surkar (2015) into the effect of supportive seating showed that support improved both attention and engagement in activities.

The following describes how the Everyday Activity Seat system meets these requirements.

What are the equipment and accessory requirements?

(What are you requesting funding for? Which components are required to meet the Everyday Activity Seat?)

The Everyday Activity Seat is an adjustable seating system, available in 3 sizes, for children aged 1-18, with a maximum user weight of 100kg or 220lbs. It is designed and manufactured as durable medical equipment and is a registered medical device. Key features of the Everyday Activity Seat are:

- Depth and height adjustable seat shell to easily accommodate 6-8 years of growth.
- Easy transfers with height and angle adjustable flip-up footplate which complement the adjustable sandal supports.
- Foot pedal operated Hi-Low chassis to enable the child to be close to their peers on the floor or higher up for table activities. Tilt feature for change in position or assist with head control.
- Secure pelvic positioning with a front adjustable, 4-point belt.
- Range of chest and hip laterals which can be individually positioned to apply 3-point loading to correct a flexible scoliosis or at equal heights to simply maintain the trunk in midline.
- Activity tray and shoulder protraction to encourage upper limb function during ADL.
- Bright-colored, machine-washable fabrics.

These features combine to optimize function, stability, and comfort.

Components of the LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat

(Delete components that you are NOT requesting.)

To meet _____'s needs for postural support, I am requesting funding for the LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat with the features and accessories set out below.

Item	Description of Medical Necessity
<p>Hi-Low Chassis with Gas Spring</p> 	<p>The foot pedal-operated hi-low chassis has a large range of adjustments allowing the client to be seated low, midline, or high to enable them to perform everyday activities such as circle time, watching TV, or helping in the kitchen. Compatible with Size 1 and Size 2.</p>
<p>Hi-Low Hydraulic Assist Chassis</p> 	<p>The Hydraulic Chassis has a large range of height adjustments which can be achieved while the client is in the chair. The mechanism has been designed to assist the caregiver in lifting a heavier weight. Compatible with Size 3.</p>
<p>Vinyl Options</p> 	<p>The vinyl fabric option for the EVERYDAY ACTIVITY SEAT offers comfort, durability, and practicality as well as a modern, sleek look. The vinyl covers can be easily wiped clean.</p>
<p>Contoured Headrest</p> 	<p>For individuals with moderate head control. The contoured headrest has multiple adjustments to keep the head and neck stacked centrally over the trunk.</p>
<p>Flat Headrest Support and Cushion</p> 	<p>The cushioned flat headrest is width, depth, and height adjustable to ensure it can be positioned exactly where required. It comes with easy clean covers.</p>
<p>Laterals for Flat Headrests</p> 	<p>Laterals can be used with the flat headrest to keep the head in mid-line. Suitable for those with poor head control or when the chair is reclined.</p>

<p>Rigid Chest Laterals</p> 	<p>Rigid Chest Laterals are adjustable in width and height to maintain the trunk upright in midline or correct asymmetrical postures.</p>
<p>Swing-Away Chest Laterals</p> 	<p>Swing-away chest laterals are adjustable in width and height to maintain the trunk upright in midline or correct asymmetrical postures. They flip away to assist transfers.</p>
<p>Chest Support - Size 1 and 2</p> 	<p>Chest Support gives additional anterior support while ensuring the shoulder girdle is free to move forward during functional activities.</p>
<p>Chest Support - Size 3</p> 	<p>Chest Support gives additional anterior support while ensuring the shoulder girdle is free to move forward during functional activities.</p>
<p>Butterfly Harness</p> 	<p>The trunk harness provides lateral and anterior support up to the shoulder girdle. The 3 sizes accommodate a range of trunk shapes and sizes with an optional harness extension strap giving 4" additional length.</p>
<p>Seat Protraction Pad</p> 	<p>The protraction pads can be adjusted to protract the shoulder girdle and help the upper limbs to come to the midline for learning or play.</p>
<p>Armrest</p> 	<p>The height and angle adjustable armrests are made of soft Polyurethane, designed for comfort. There is an additional length to support self-transfer but can easily be removed for mechanical lift transfers.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Tray</p> 	<p>The depth-adjustable activity tray can be adjusted to elbow height for improved function or higher for increased anterior support for low-tone or fatigued children. The tray is available in plastic (grey - size 1 & 2 or black - size 3).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Adduction Side Pad</p> 	<p>The long adduction side pads provide additional lateral support to keep the femurs in midline even at maximum seat depth.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Side Pad</p> 	<p>Sizes 2 and 3 are available with side abduction pads which provide additional lateral support when the seat is at maximum depth.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pelvic Belt 4-Point</p> 	<p>The four-point harness is cushioned for comfort and can be easily adjusted from the center to ensure a mid-line position and pelvic stability.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wedge Shape Pommel (Medial Thigh Support)</p> 	<p>The medial thigh support assists with the alignment of the femurs ensuring an optimum abducted posture.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">One Piece Footplate</p> 	<p>The height and angle adjustable one-piece metal footplate can be flipped up and locked in position to facilitate transfer when upright. The Size 3 footplate has two calf supports which facilitate the increased weight limit.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sandals with Straps</p> 	<p>The sandals can be angle and depth adjusted on the footplate allowing support for asymmetries and assisting with even weight distribution. 1" sandal raisers available to accommodate leg length.</p>

What alternatives are available but not suitable?

(If there are less costly alternatives available, acknowledge them in your letter. However, emphasize why these alternatives are not suitable for the patient's specific situation. This could also be a type of therapy in place of a product)

A less costly alternative product, the _____, has been trialed or considered but is not appropriate to meet _____'s needs. The _____ features 2 base options and is adjustable for growth, however, it does not provide the same high level of proximal support as the flexible sacral pad and adjustable shoulder protraction support which are available for the LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat. There is also a limited range of accessories and is not suitable for outdoor bases. The Everyday Activity Seat has been designed around the social and emotional needs of the child as well as the clinical benefits of supportive seating.

Summary/conclusion

Seating systems are an essential part of 24-hour postural management. They confer a range of benefits to children including improvements in concentration and attention, upper limb function, joint formation, and postural stability. The associated social and cognitive benefits of sitting comfortably and being able to interact with family and peers will improve sleep, communication, and general well-being. The LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat is a versatile seating system that grows up with the child, enabling a functional posture from which normal ADLs such as feeding, eating, and playing can be performed. The wealth of adjustability and accessories, such as flip-up footplate and shoulder protraction pads will ensure the seat can be tailored to meet _____'s needs as he/she continues to grow, while the hi-low frame with tilt will make it easy for caregivers to meet his/her everyday positioning needs at school and home.

The LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat is the best support to meet all _____'s medical needs and as such I do not hesitate to recommend that it should be funded.

Activities that can be achieved with the LECKEY Everyday Activity Seat



References:

1. Chung, J., Evans, J., Lee, C., Lee, J., Rabbani, Y., Roxborough, L., & Harris, S. R. (2008). Effectiveness of adaptive seating on sitting posture and postural control in children with cerebral palsy. *Pediatric Physical Therapy: the official publication of the Section on Pediatrics of the American Physical Therapy Association*, 20(4), 303–317. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PEP.0b013e31818b7bdd>
2. McClean, L; Magnuson, S; Gasior, S (2014). Positioning for hip health: A clinical resource, Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children Vancouver, BC, Canada.
3. Sahinoğlu, D., Coskun, G., & Bek, N. (2017). Effects of different seating equipment on postural control and upper extremity function in children with cerebral palsy. *Prosthetics and Orthotics International*, 41(1), 85–94. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309364616637490>
4. Surkar, S. M., Edelbrock, C., Stergiou, N., Berger, S., & Harbourne, R. (2015). Sitting postural control affects the development of focused attention in children with cerebral palsy. *Pediatric physical therapy: the official publication of the Section on Pediatrics of the American Physical Therapy Association*, 27(1), 16–22. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PEP.000000000000097>

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