

## SAMPLE LETTER OF MEDICAL NECESSITY FOR E.MOTION POWER ASSIST

### Letter of Medical Necessity

Date: January \_\_, \_\_\_\_

**Patient Name:** x

**DOB:**

**Diagnosis:** C5 American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) A tetraplegia

**Equipment Requested:** Manual Wheelchair (w/c) with Emotion (Power Assist) Wheels

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is a 24-year-old male who is receiving intensive outpatient physical therapy services at the \_\_\_\_\_ Center for Spinal Cord Injury in \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ presented with a cervical spinal cord injury following a motor vehicle accident on April 10, 2008. Prior to his injury, \_\_\_\_\_ was an active, healthy individual. \_\_\_\_\_ currently suffers from C5 ASIA A tetraplegia, overall weakness of his upper extremities and absent volitional movement of the trunk and lower extremities, balance impairments, decreased functional mobility (requiring maximum assist for all bed mobility, transfers, etc.), impaired posture, and decreased sensation.

\_\_\_\_\_ would greatly benefit from a manual wheelchair with Emotion (power assist) wheels to improve his independence within his home and community (as pt is currently dependently pushed by his mother in a loaner manual chair). He would also benefit to increase cardiovascular health, encourage continual improvement of upper extremity strength and range of motion, and enhance his self-esteem. \_\_\_\_\_ is in need of a manual wheelchair for exercise and community mobility as he plans to begin college courses on a nearby campus this spring. **The family does not have transportation access for a power w/c and the home is not accessible to a power w/c** (pt has a split-level home with steps to enter and his bedroom is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor). He also requires a manual w/c in the community for buildings which have stairs. Due to \_\_\_\_\_'s tetraplegia, decreased upper extremity muscle strength, decreased endurance, absent trunk and lower extremity function, and decreased lower extremity sensation, **an ultra-light-weight rigid TiLite ZRA manual w/c with Emotion wheels proves medically necessary.**

*The following equipment is specified for \_\_\_\_\_ by the clinical assessment team:*

**TiLite ZRA Manual Wheelchair:** The TiLite ZRA is medically necessary as it is an ultra lightweight wheelchair, which will allow \_\_\_\_\_ to negotiate community and household distances with increased efficiency, energy-conservation, improved negotiation of obstacles, and decreased risk for overuse injuries of his shoulders. \_\_\_\_\_ requires custom seat dimensions and strength features that cannot be accommodated in a standard wheelchair. Because the chair is ultra lightweight, this will also increase the ease of transportability, making it possible for \_\_\_\_\_ to transport his chair with decreased assistance. The chair also provides the best support to allow for proper postural alignment while propelling and when stationary, which is important for proper respiration, increased efficiency with propelling, and protecting the spinal joints. In short, the chair will allow \_\_\_\_\_ increased independence and allow him to interact in his environment and with his family and peers in the most normalized manner.

**Power Adaptable Frame:** Due to the level of his injury he has weaknesses in arm strength and it is not adequate to propel a manual wheelchair all day for the distances he needs to cover at home, work, and in the community. The power adaptable frame will allow for the addition of E-Motion wheels to assist with independent propulsion.

**Seat Back: w/ Blk Alum TiShaft Back Release Bar:** supports the J3 back and its hardware; it is required to allow the back to fold for transport.

**5"x1" 2-Pc Alum Front Whl w/Soft Roll:** The soft roll caster wheels are necessary to decrease the vibration under Evan's lower extremities and buttocks where he has diminished sensation and is at risk for skin breakdown. The 2 piece billet style wheel will require less maintenance and decrease repair costs.

**Airless Inserts:** *\*specific to regular tires:* \_\_\_\_\_ would not be able to adequately maintain pneumatic tires. Airless inserts require less maintenance and decreases repair cost. Also, prevent Evan from becoming stranded.

**Plastic Coated Handrims Black:** *\*specific to regular tires:* The coated handrims will allow Evan to maintain a better grip on the rims which will improve his propulsion techniques to allow him the safest and most efficient stroke pattern.

**Uni-Lock Wheel Locks Push To Lock and Uni-Lock Wheel Lock Extension:** necessary to hold wheelchair steady during transfers; wheel lock extensions promote independence with securing wheel locks due to decreased excursion of the trunk and arms to operate and increased lever arm of the wheel lock which makes operation easier.

**Alum. Rigid Removable Side Guards and Swing Away Tubular Armrests 11” to 14”:** The side guards need to be removable to increase the ease and safety of performing lateral transfers. It is important for the arm rests to be height adjustable to ensure proper alignment of shoulders and neck musculature during sitting, to minimize the risk of overuse injuries.

**Auto Style Release Buckle Seat Belt:** properly maintain pelvic positioning when seated in the wheelchair; allows increased independence with fastening/unfastening and tightening seat belt with limited hand function.

**Calf Strap Velcro Adj Medium:** Medically necessary to maintain \_\_\_\_\_’s feet in proper alignment due to his decreased sensation and inability to actively position his lower extremities.

**User Friendly Rear Flip Up Anti-Tips:** These are required to allow for increased stability of the wheelchair, especially while negotiating environmental obstacles such as ramps and uneven terrain. Anti-tippers are a necessary safety feature to prevent the chair from tipping backwards from an accidental wheelie.

**Emotion M15 Dual Drive Program Pwr Assist 24” Whls:** The Emotion power assist will magnify the effort that \_\_\_\_\_ is able to put into propelling the chair. This will allow him to independently propel the wheelchair for the longer distances he now has to cover at home and in the community (e.g. when attending college courses on a campus this spring), as well as for future employment. The Dual Drive feature enables \_\_\_\_\_ to change the sensitivity at each wheel, which helps make for more efficient propulsion when one UE is stronger than the other (as is true in \_\_\_\_\_’s case). The power assist wheels will decrease the fatigue of propelling the wheelchair and improve efficiency as well to allow \_\_\_\_\_ to propel the wheelchair in a reasonable amount of time. This particular combination has been selected over other wheelchairs as it is felt to be a less expensive alternative while providing the greatest durability. Further, a manual wheelchair (vs. a power wheelchair, which \_\_\_\_\_ is unable to get into his home) is better suited for \_\_\_\_\_’s available resources and surroundings. \* \_\_\_\_\_ has trialed the Emotion wheel system in our clinic with great results, requiring only supervision-modified independent assist over level surfaces.

**Flat Free Inserts/Tires 24”x 1-3/8”:** *\*specific to Emotion wheels:* \_\_\_\_\_ would not be able to adequately maintain pneumatic tires. Flat free inserts require less maintenance and decreases repair cost. Also, prevent \_\_\_\_\_ from becoming stranded.

**Removable Rubber Hand Rim Covers 24”:** *\*specific to Emotion wheels:* The coated handrims will allow \_\_\_\_\_ to maintain a better grip on the rims which will improve his propulsion techniques to allow him the safest and most efficient stroke pattern.

**18x18 Standard J2 Deep Contour Cushion:** this cushion is medically necessary to provide adequate pressure distribution and provide proper positioning of the lower extremities. \*Pt has no issue with wounds from his current manual (loaner) w/c with J2 Deep Contour cushion (Note: he has a history of 2 wounds in the past- Stage II on his bottom secondary to hospitalization).

**Chest Strap, Elastic, Large:** required to provide safe positioning in the w/c over uneven terrain and during transport.

**15" Tall Mid Thoracic Back 18-20 W Posterior:** Mid thoracic height with posterior/lateral support and extended mounting hardware: will provide the patient with- appropriate back support given his level of balance, as well as provide comfort and pressure relief.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for the opportunity to provide this information to you so that together we can provide the best mobility and positioning option to best meet \_\_\_\_\_'s needs. If you have further questions we may be contacted at the numbers below.

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\_\_\_\_\_, MD  
Faculty, Physician  
Center for Spinal Cord Injury

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\_\_\_\_\_, PT, DPT  
Staff Physical Therapist  
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