

Physical and Occupational Therapy Management Breakout Session

Key Elements to a Successful Letter of Medical Necessity for Early Power Mobility

- Introduce patient, site of care, and evaluation dates. Give description of disease and type. Explain current assistance with ADLs, transfers and mobility. State if they have accessible housing.
- Describe benefits of early power mobility as an intervention (Tefft 1999, Campos 1987, Butler 1983, Jones 2003) and negative effects if critical window is missed and power mobility is not provided – including helplessness (Wiant 2003, Butler 1983, Butler 1991, Becker 1975, Brinker & Lewis 1982, Verburg 1987). Include references. Report findings in two studies using early power mobility for children with neuromuscular disease (Butler 1984, Jones 2003).
- Describe patient's impairments and functional status on examination.
- Describe patient's mobility limitations and inability to participate in mobility related activities of daily living (MRADL) using a cane, walker, manual wheelchair and/or scooter.
- Describe patient's in-clinic or in-home trials (dates, hours practiced, skills mastered on the Power Mobility Skills Checklist). Explain accessibility of home/school/community and transportation available.
- State it is medically necessary for patient to have a power wheelchair and name the specific one that will support their needs. List components of wheelchair and justifications for each component.
- Reiterate patient is unable to negotiate their environments safely and independently. Describe what support is available in home/school. Describe how patient will be able to change position throughout the day.
- Reaffirm medical necessity and purpose of power wheelchair.
- Provide your contact info.
- Include video of power mobility trials: show learning to activate joystick and progress to skills mastered on Power Mobility Skill Checklist. Try to keep parents out of video and environment clear from distractions.
- Include RESNA position paper of Application of Power Wheelchairs for Pediatric Users
- Resources
 - State of IL Medicaid Manual of DME Coverage Guidelines:
 - <http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/m200.pdf>
 - RESNA Position Paper on Application of Early Power Mobility:
http://www.permobil.com/Global/USA/FUNDING/Documents/Funding/Research%20Articles/Resna_position_pwr_wc_pediatric_users.pdf
 - Power Mobility Skills Checklist:
<http://internet.dscc.uic.edu/forms/0535.pdf>
 - Power Mobility Example Documents and References from Permobil:
<http://www.permobilusa.com/USA/Support1/documentsreferences-std/>
<http://lmn.permobil.com/>