

Rifton Mobile Stander

A Sample Letter of Medical Necessity

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PO Box 260, Rifton NY, 12471 • www.rifton.com • sales@rifton.com • **800.571.8198** • fax: 800.865.4674

Rifton Item Name

Components of a letter of Medical Necessity

Describe who you are, what you want, and beneficiary's name:

As John Doe's therapist, I am requesting funding authorization for a Rifton Mobile Stander.

Give an explanation of beneficiary's condition, diagnosis, or nature of injury:

John Doe has _____ and is currently (describe ability to sit, stand, and walk including amount of assistance needed for each activity pertinent to the piece of equipment).

Discuss the impact of the above mentioned diagnosis on the beneficiary's and caregiver's life. Note the limitations without the requested equipment:

Because John Doe is confined to a wheelchair, he does not have the muscle strength or muscle tone to sit independently, stand, or walk. He therefore does not have the opportunity to be upright like other typical children. In recent years, it has become obvious that the Rifton Mobile Stander has been missing in our attempts to get children with motor involvements such as John Doe up and moving to their greatest functioning potentials.

Prolonged positioning in a wheelchair causes flexion contractures at hips and knees that result in corrective surgeries and increased therapy interventions. This has negatively impacted children both therapeutically and medically. It is a costly and cyclical problem that can be improved and often avoided with early intervention in providing the proper equipment that supports being upright and gives opportunities for independent mobility.

As John Doe grows and his functional abilities decrease, the risk of caregiver back injuries grows. This is due to increasingly difficult transfers.

Describe the benefits to the beneficiary and caregiver that the equipment will provide. Discuss adjustments for growth and psychological benefits:

The Rifton Mobile Stander will support even the most significantly involved child in an upright position that is comfortable and therapeutic in many ways. Positioning hips and knees in prolonged extension helps prevent contractures over time. The upright standing position also improves respiration, digestion, circulation, bowel/bladder function and bone development.

When children are at eye level with their peers, their social, emotional and psychological development is enhanced—all necessary for the growth of a well-rounded and healthy child. This inclusion is a profound motivator for movement. Because of the biomechanical position of the wheels on a Rifton Mobile Stander with respect to forearm positioning, forward propulsion is made easier whereas in a wheelchair, movement forward is often difficult if not impossible. Bilaterally strengthening the muscles of the upper torso not only benefits fine motor and self-help skills, but also helps diminish the progress of scoliosis.

All this, in turn decreases John's dependence on his caregiver and makes functions like transfers easier.

As John Doe progresses, supports can be lowered or taken away, further improving overall muscle strength and control. This system is also adjustable for growth in height and weight.



Itemization of the Rifton Mobile Stander:

Item	Description of Medical Necessity
<p>Mobile Stander frame</p> 	<p>For upright posture, prolonged stretch of hips/knees, positioning of spine to help prevent scoliosis, improvement of internal organ functioning, strengthening of arms with ability to move, improve social/emotional growth, and increase endurance.</p>
<p>Pair of large wheels</p> 	<p>The optional pair of large wheels pop on and off with the push of a button. The handbrake is in easy reach. Transparent spoke guards protect fingers and hand rims keep hands clean.</p>
<p>Mounting bracket</p> 	<p>A mounting bracket enables use of item with arm prompts, communication tray, or both.</p>
<p>Handloops (require mounting bracket)</p> 	<p>Secure, adjustable and positioned to provide stability and confidence while moving.</p>
<p>Arm prompt set (requires mounting bracket)</p> 	<p>Allows for resting positions in upright, improves strength/endurance of shoulder girdle and upper arms, and position to assist head control strengthening.</p>
<p>Communication tray (requires mounting bracket)</p> 	<p>Allows for access to learning tools and communication systems that enhance learning and provide motivation to remain upright.</p>
<p>Additional seat pads</p> 	<p>Additional seat pads are available for children who need extra support or a different size. (for K150 and K170 Standers)</p>

Itemization of the Rifton Mobile Stander cont.:

Sandals and wedges 	Position feet and legs for good bone alignment while standing.
Conversion kit 	Converts smallest stander (K110) to the next size up (K130), allowing for growth and reducing costs of a new stander.

Make the person real:

Condemning a person to life in a wheelchair has many negative effects that encompass both medical and economic areas.

Over time, muscle contractures develop at the hip and knees causing so much tightness that transfers out of the wheelchair to bed, bath or toilet become increasingly difficult. As the individual ages, size and weight become factors that contribute highly to caregiver injury. Including the decline of bowel and bladder function, all these factors increase care giving and medical intervention that in turn, raise costs.

Without the proper equipment, John Doe will inevitably require surgeries to correct deformities caused by the factors mentioned.

Reiterate and summarize the cost benefits:

The cost of the Mobile Stander is a fraction of the cost of just one surgery that it can prevent. With continued gains of strength and mobility, John Doe's medical and custodial needs can be decreased.

Because the Rifton Mobile Stander accommodates for growth and can be adjusted to a larger size by the Conversion Kit, it is most desirable for both the beneficiary and insurer.

Considering all this, the Rifton Mobile Stander will not only meet the needs of John Doe, his family, and caregiver, but will also be most cost-effective to the insurer.

Don't forget to include pictures of the Mobile Stander.



The Rifton Mobile Stander



K150 Mobile Stander with accessories



K170



K150



K130



K110

