

Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer

Sample Letter of Medical Necessity



GUIDANCE ON HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FOR ANY PRODUCT OR SERVICE. HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS SHOULD MAKE THE ULTIMATE DETERMINATION AS TO WHEN TO USE A SPECIFIC PRODUCT BASED ON CLINICAL APPROPRIATENESS FOR A PARTICULAR PATIENT AND APPLICATIONS TO ANY FUNDING SOURCE MUST ACCURATELY REFLECT THE FACTS UNIQUE TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS. THIRD PARTY PAYMENT IS AFFECTED BY NUMEROUS FACTORS AND RIFTON CANNOT GUARANTEE THE SUCCESS IN OBTAINING INSURANCE OR THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS OF ANY KIND.



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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 Pacer Gait Trainer

Explain the beneficiary's condition, including 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 Pacer Gait Trainer).

Discuss the impact on the beneficiary's and caregiver's life. Note both the limitations and abilities without the requested equipment:

Because John Doe is confined to a wheelchair and does not have good muscle strength or tone, he does not have the capacity to be in an upright position to learn mobility skills. Without a highly supportive Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer that offers both support and safety, John Doe will not have the opportunity to be in an upright, mobile position.

To date, we have not been successful in our attempts to get children with motor involvements such as John Doe up and moving to their greatest functioning potentials. This has impacted children both therapeutically and medically. Prolonged positioning in a wheelchair causes flexion contractures at hips and knees that result in corrective surgeries and increased therapy interventions. As John Doe grows and his functional abilities decrease, transfers become increasingly difficult. This increases the risk of back injuries for his caregivers.

These are costly and cyclical problems 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.

It has been shown that even the most significantly involved person, given enough repetitions, can learn new skills, but there must be many opportunities to practice movements. The Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer offers the comprehensive prompt system of support to provide John Doe with these opportunities.

Describe equipment, adjustments for growth, and psychological benefits:

The Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer will support even the most significantly involved child in an upright position while allowing for lower extremity movement that is comfortable and therapeutic in many ways. Being upright and mobile also improves respiration, digestion, circulation, bowel/bladder function, and bone development.









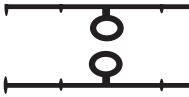


When children are at eye level with their peers, their social, emotional, and psychological development is enhanced—all necessary for the growth of a well-rounded and healthy child. This inclusion is a profound motivator for movement. Because of the prompt system of supports on the Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer, John Doe will have many opportunities to practice walking skills and be out of his wheelchair. As John Doe progresses, supports can be lowered or taken away, further improving overall muscle strength and control. The Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer is also adjustable for growth and folds for easy transport.



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Itemization of Pacer Gait Trainer:

| Description | Medical Necessity | Cost |
|---|--|------|
| <p>Pacer gait trainer</p>  | <p>For upright posture to improve internal organ functioning, strengthen arms and legs with ability to move, improve social/emotional growth and increase overall strength and endurance giving opportunities to progress to independent mobility.</p> | |
| <p>Arm prompt set</p>  | <p>Allows for shoulder/arm positioning to assist weight-bearing, enables forward-lean during gait, improves strength/endurance of shoulder girdle to assist head control.</p> | |
| <p>Communication tray</p>  | <p>Allows for positioning of learning tools and communication systems that enhance learning and provides motivation to remain upright.</p> | |
| <p>Chest prompt</p>  | <p>Offers safety and support for individuals with poor trunk control.</p> | |
| <p>Handholds</p>  | <p>Adjusts for comfort, forming to contractures/tone.</p> | |
| <p>Hip positioner (includes handholds)</p>  | <p>Safety and support while allowing for movement during walking.</p> | |
| <p>Pelvic support (includes handholds)</p>  | <p>Pelvic support provides minimal abduction and increased freedom of movement.</p> | |
| <p>Thigh prompt set</p>  | <p>Combines thigh and knee abduction and adduction with comfortable free-swinging motion. Helps maintain good body alignment.</p> | |
| <p>Ankle prompt set</p>  | <p>Prevents legs from crossing and controls stride length. Necessary for good body alignment.</p> | |
| <p>Hand loops</p>  | <p>Secure, highly adjustable, positioned to provide stability and confidence while moving.</p> | |
| <p>Attendant guide bar</p>  | <p>Attaches to top bar, and is used to assist forward movement. Provides ergonomic positioning to prevent caregiver strain.</p> | |



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Make the person real, add individual wants and needs:

The motivation to walk is very strong within the human spirit. Trying to build muscle strength with bedside or chair exercises has not been very successful in the past as it is difficult to be motivated to progress in these positions. Given a Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer, John Doe will have the opportunities he needs to be upright, out of his wheelchair, and to practice walking skills.

Summarize cost benefits:

The Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer can save on costly medical and surgical interventions that become inevitable as muscles contract when one is confined to a wheelchair. Upright movement promotes health and decreases costs of hospitalizations of high needs clients. Most importantly, the Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer will allow John Doe to work toward becoming more independent rather than being totally dependent on caregivers for the rest of his life. The Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer also has the potential of saving future medical costs of caregivers injuring their backs with lifting and during transfers.

Considering the above, the Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer will not only meet the needs of John Doe, his family, and caregiver, but also be most cost effective to the insurer.

Include pictures of the Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer.

The Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer



XL Pacer Gait Trainer K504



Large Pacer Gait Trainer K503



Medium Pacer Gait Trainer K502



Small Pacer Gait Trainer K501



Mini Pacer Gait Trainer K509