



SAMPLE of LETTER of MEDICAL NECESSITY for HYPOTONIA

The following equipment is being requested for the patient named above:

- ❖ SPIO (Stabilizing Pressure Input Orthosis) Vest

Diagnosis and Prognosis:

_____ has significant hypotonia and delay in achievement of his/her motor skills. _____ has been in neurodevelopmental therapy since _____ of age, and continues to receive therapy. _____ has significant/extreme hypotonicity (low muscle tone) throughout his/her trunk and extremities. He/she is able to roll over, but is not able to sit alone or perform any movement transitions against gravity. Even when being held upright at his/her parent's shoulder, she demonstrates very minimal postural stability. This makes it difficult for adults to carry him/her unless they cradle him/her in sitting as you would a 3 month old. He/she is currently able to prop sit when placed in the ideal position using his/her arms for support, but cannot maintain the position more than 10-20 seconds. Once he/she loses control, he/she exhibits no grading of his/her movement; rather, he/she falls suddenly forward at his/her hips. Also of concern at this time, specifically, is the lack of tone of the postural muscles of his/her trunk (abdominals, extensor muscles, scapular musculature), which are the muscles that are necessary for breathing. Because postural muscles are less active than they should be, it is sometimes challenging for him/her to breathe, especially if he/she is congested. This presents a concern about the impact of this on his/her health and puts him/her at risk for developing pneumonia or other severe upper respiratory infections due to his/her difficulty breathing.

A trunk orthosis called SPIO (Stabilizing Pressure Input Orthosis) is being recommended for _____. This is a lycra and neoprene orthosis that provides continuous support and sensory feedback to _____'s postural and respiratory musculature. During therapy we have had a chance to try using this shoulder, trunk and hip flexible compression brace with _____, and have seen dramatic functional improvements. When wearing the SPIO, _____ demonstrates improved postural stability, alignment, and body awareness such that he/she is able to sit with minimal support. As a result, he/she is also much better able to focus his/her energy on cognitive, play and feeding skills, and less on just keeping himself/herself upright. This piece of equipment has been so helpful that we would like to order one that _____ can also wear at home to maximize his/her potential in all areas of development. Not only are independent motor skills (sitting alone, crawling) heavily dependent on postural stability, but so are _____'s development of communication, speech, feeding and play skills.

I certify that the above equipment is medically necessary for the treatment of the patient's diagnosis.

Clinician's Signature & Date:
