SAINT MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN
EQUIPMENT JUSTIFICATION

RE: ZZZZZZZZZZ YYYYYYYYYY
D.O.B.: ##/##/##
DIAGNOSIS: Brain Tumor (hypothalamic Glioma), s.p. R MCA infarct, Left thalamic infarct, seizures, s.p. v/p shunt placement
INSURANCE I.D.#: Oxford Personal Freedom Plan #111111ZZZZZZZZZZ03
MEDICAID #: AA1111A (Nassau)

CURRENT STATUS: ZZZZZZZZZZ is a 6 year old boy who suffered bilateral cerebral hemorrhage during the excision of a suprasellar glioma in December, 2001. Following his surgery, ZZZZZZZZZZ was hospitalized continuously for intensive rehabilitation and medical management through August, 2002. ZZZZZZZZZZ was discharged from XXXXX Hospital for Children, in the care of his parents, to live at home, where he continued to receive physical, occupational and speech therapy services through December, 2002, at which time it was determined that he required a second surgical attempt to excise the tumor which had grown significantly over the course of the year, resulting in increased intracranial pressure. ZZZZZZZZZZ is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment as well as home-based rehabilitation services in an attempt to restore function lost following his surgery in January, 2003. ZZZZZZZZZZ presents with left hemiplegia, including minimal active movement of his left hand (he is able to raise his arm 45 degrees, and to grasp briefly with his left hand, but he has no other volitional function in his left hand), and moderate hypertonus in his left leg, with mild hypotonus in the left arm. He presents with areas of skin breakdown on his left ankle (over the dorsal talus), resulting in diminished ability to wear AFOs. Since his surgery in January, 2003, ZZZZZZZZZZ has not resumed his prior ambulatory status, in part due to inability to functionally position the left foot and ankle for weight bearing, in part due to diminished tolerance for weight bearing on the left lower extremity, and in part due to diminished strength in the left leg, diminished balance and poor trunk control. His head and trunk control remain moderately impaired since his surgery in January, 2003. ZZZZZZZZZZ has left homonymous hemianopsia, which contributes to his poor posture and left visual neglect, resulting in postural deviations which include left sided weight shift and left thoracolumbar scoliosis in sitting, as well as to poor balance in unsupported standing and dynamically during assisted walking. Since his surgery in January, ZZZZZZZZZZ has diminished pupillary reaction to light. He cannot sit independently without support for longer than 5 minutes, as a result

of his poor motor control and visual deficits. ZZZZZZZZZZ also presents with severe balance deficits rendering him unable to stand independently without external support. ZZZZZZZZZZ is currently able to walk approximately 30 feet with moderate assistance of one.

EQUIPMENT REQUESTED: LiteGait Body Weight Support system with Junior Harness.

JUSTIFICATION OF FEATURES OF DEVICE REQUESTED:

The Litegait is a postural control device that has a harness system, designed to safely support a child eliminating the danger of falling. It can be rolled onto a treadmill or over ground for not only walking, but also for dynamic sitting and standing balance activities as well as for transfer training, which ZZZZZZZZZZ is in need of. Its adjustability will allow for years of growth.

ZZZZZZZZZZ has no means of independent mobility at this point in time. He is able to sit with trunk support. When held in standing, he is able to bear some weight through his left lower extremity, and take some (up to 15) steps with difficulty. He lacks balance and trunk control, and avoids bearing weight on his left leg. ZZZZZZZZZZ's plan of care addresses strengthening of the trunk and left arm and leg, transfer training, balance training in sitting and in standing, gait training and stair training.

Body weight support treadmill training is necessary for ZZZZZZZZZZ to improve trunk control, posture, and balance in an upright position for the purposes of ambulation and improving general function. It is vital that he is given the opportunity to experience his surroundings in an upright position. ZZZZZZZZZZ needs to have a fall free environment to practice all the components of gait. ZZZZZZZZZZ requires body weight support, as he is incapable of maintaining full body weight on his left leg during stance phase. The LiteGait in combination with a treadmill will allow task specific practice of ambulation under corrected upright, symmetrical and fall free conditions. The continual pacing offered by the treadmill will allow for repetitive stepping necessary for the acquisition of walking. Proper coordination is further assisted by the manual placement of the lower extremities and/or weight shifting by the caregiver.

ZZZZZZZZZZ has already had the experience of successful Body Weight Support Treadmill Training following his first surgery, during his inpatient rehabilitation on XXXXX Hospital for Children's Traumatic Brain Injury/Coma Recovery unit. Using this device, he progressed to walk independently with a Gator gait trainer, and then walking independently over level ground without external support for more than 20 steps. ZZZZZZZZZZ suffered a setback when his tumor recurred, and he was hospitalized briefly for excision surgery. He did not receive any inpatient rehabilitation following his second surgery, and therefore did not receive the Body Weight Support Gait Training that enabled him to become an independent ambulator following his first surgery.

In addition, the skin breakdown that he suffered over the left dorsal talus during his hospitalization for his second surgery has not healed, and he has been unable to be adequately braced to position his left foot in a plantigrade position for full weight bearing gait training under optimal conditions. The body weight support provided by this system will allow ZZZZZZZZZZ to proceed with aggressive gait training despite the limitations in his left lower extremity.

Studies of Body Weight Support Treadmill Training demonstrate that the gains made in the body weight support condition carry over to the full weight bearing condition.

ZZZZZZZZZZ weighs 55 lbs and is 45 inches tall. The appropriate Body Weight Support system for ZZZZZZZZZZ is the Litegait. Please see the attached brochure with pricing information.

Should you require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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