



Medical Justification Language for AEL Backpack Style Posture Support

AEL's sample Letters of Medical Necessity (LMNs) are solely intended as educational tools. These tools are for reference only and is not an official document for justification. The development of Letters of Medical Necessity should be ultimately left to healthcare professionals; and, the information provided within the LMNs should reflect the unique needs of the individual that the product is being purchased for.

****Methodology to apply the following justifications:**

When determining the level of equipment needed, begin with the basic level of equipment. Then, determine if the next level/style of equipment would be more appropriate for the client. If so, include the basic justification with aspects of the next level/style of equipment as necessary, as well as any further justifications as needed, which are listed below.

Basic Justifications

AEL AirLogic Backpack Style Posture Support

AEL's AirLogic Backpack Style Posture Support is medically necessary to assist the client in achieving improved trunk alignment as s/he presents with (include all that are applicable of the following) internal rotation of the (left/right/bilateral) shoulder(s), shoulder protraction of the left/right/bilateral) shoulder(s) (Include the cause of the shoulder internal rotation and/or protraction here if appropriate), decreased trunk control, postural asymmetries, trunk weakness, and hypertonicity (spasticity). This Backpack Style Posture Support will prevent the patient's trunk from flexing forward by retracting and neutralizing the protracted shoulder(s) thus positioning the client against the wheelchair seat back, resulting in improved respiratory status, functional independence and MRADL (mobility related activities of daily living) performance.

More specifically, the Backpack Style's design, when positioned at the shoulder girdle eliminates the risk of injury or respiratory restriction (or suffocation) to the client, as there is no median crossover aspect of the support. This significantly increases the client's safety. (If the client is known for 'sliding' down in the seating system, it is important to note this additional safety factor). This style also promotes improved shoulder retraction, which will greatly improve the client's ability to breathe without having to lift the weight of his/her upper torso as is necessary with other support designs. This non-invasive design allows the abdomen to remain free of obstruction, and offers the client improved body temperature control due to the minimal contact area coverage.

Without use of the Backpack Style Posture Support, the client would be unable to sit self-supported within the wheelchair due to trunk weakness and decreased core strength, thus negatively impacting the client's respiratory capability, digestive performance, ability to perform MRADL activities and eliminating the ability of the client to independently self-propel the wheelchair (include if applicable and patient is self-propelling).

AEL's AirLogic Backpack Style Posture Support was specifically chosen for this client, as AirLogic products are designed via a series of breathable fabrics and structural layers that maximize air flow under and through the trunk support, thus reducing the occurrence of moisture build up between the support and the client's skin surface, subsequently reducing the risk of skin breakdown and promoting improved skin integrity. This, coupled with the thin, contoured styling of the Backpack Style, offers improved fit against the client's torso, temperature control and comfort, thus increasing the client's sitting tolerance within the chair.



(Select one of the additional options below to include depending on the client's presentation upon examination/assessment):

In the event the client is presenting with **hypersensitivity to pressure cross the torso, perhaps due to a previous chest surgery (mastectomy, open heart surgery, etc)** the above justification may include the following:

The Backpack Style Posture Support was selected to successfully neutralize the client's trunk by retracting the (left/right/bilateral) shoulder(s), while the mid-torso and sternal regions remain free from occlusion. This client presents with hypersensitivity to the (insert anatomical structure here – breast, sternum, etc) due to a history of (insert medical/surgical history here – mastectomy, coronary artery bypass graft surgery) and would not be able to tolerate an anterior support which crosses midline. The Backpack Style avoids contact with the affected areas, thus providing adequate support while offering maximal wheelchair seating tolerance.

In the event the client is presenting with **difficulty in body temperature control or excessive sweating (hyperhidrosis)** the above justification may include the following:

Due to the client's diagnosis, s/he presents with excessive sweat production. As a result, an anterior support which is minimally invasive in design, leaving the majority of the torso free from contact, will be medically necessary to maintain body temperature and reduce sweat production.

*In the event the client presents with **abdominal ascites or abdominal distention due to any variety of abdominal diagnoses (liver cirrhosis or cancer for example)**, the above justification should include the following:*

The Backpack Style Posture Support is medically necessary as its distal torso design ensures the abdomen is completely free from the support surface. Due to the client's abdominal distention as a result of his/her (insert diagnosis here), the client is not able to tolerate a full-length anterior-based posture or trunk support which crossed midline, as a full length, midline support will place pressure on the abdomen, resulting in increased discomfort and pain, as well as decreased wheelchair tolerance, with the risk of physiological ramifications.

In the event the client presents with a **PEG tube/feeding tube, ostomy system, peritoneal port (usually used for chemotherapy treatment), ileostomy or any other form of port or tube system in the anterior abdomen**, the above justification may include the following:

The Backpack Style Posture Support, which is designed to provide the necessary support to the upper torso, and avoid the abdominal surface, is medically necessary as this client presents with (insert port, or tube system noted above here), and any posture support which would cover or apply pressure to the above named device is contraindicated. In order to protect the integrity of the implanted device, a Backpack Style Posture Support is required.