



Medical Justification Language for AEL Lateral Hardware

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:**

After determining the type of lateral pad to be used, it is important to consider the style of bracket mount hardware which will be utilized. Proper justification to ensure obtainment of the appropriate hardware is imperative, as without the required hardware and accompanying justification, the lateral pad would be rendered useless if not obtained and properly implemented.

****Other considerations when selecting lateral support hardware:**

As when selecting lateral pads, during hardware selection, it is important to consider the patient's method of transfer to/from the wheelchair as well as the level of tone, asymmetry or extraneous motions which the client may present with. All lateral supports must include a pad selection coupled with a bracket/hardware selection to ensure success with mounting. Please see the lateral supports (pad) section for additional justification information which pertains specifically to lateral pad style

Basic Justifications

AEL QuickPlus Swing-Away Lateral Brackets

In order for lateral pads to be placed in close contact to the torso, while still offering the client ease in transferring into and out of the seating system, the selected lateral pad will require a swing-away lateral bracket. This swing-away lateral bracket allows the lateral pads to be released via a push button mechanism during transfers, thus ensuring a proper fit of the lateral pad next to the torso, while offering ease in egress. Without this swing-away lateral bracket, it would be impossible to properly place the lateral pad as close-fitting to the client's torso as necessary to ensure proper positioning and trunk neutrality. In addition, without the swing-away feature, the client would be unable to safely and efficiently enter and exit the seating system as the lateral pads would be impeding the path of transfer.

In the event the client presents with a need for an **AEL Heavy-Duty QuickPlus Swing-Away Lateral Bracket**, perhaps as a result of a diagnosis which includes **athetoid motions, writhing motions or increased muscle tone**, the following statement may be used in addition to the above justification:

Due to his/her diagnosis (and/or anatomical structure, if applicable to include) this client requires additional durability in lateral bracket hardware to prevent malalignment and breakage which would render the equipment useless. The heavy-duty swing-away lateral bracket is comprised of 1/4" aluminum as opposed to the standard 1/8" thickness, thus providing the client with increased resistance and durability in hardware.



In the event the client presents with a need for a **Pro-tech QuickPlus Swing-Away Lateral Bracket**, as s/he currently utilizes or is being recommended for a **Pro-tech wheelchair back**, the following statement may be used in addition to above justification:

The client will be utilizing a Pro-tech wheelchair back, and as a result, will require the use of Pro-tech QuickPlus swing-away lateral bracket, as these lateral pads are specifically designed to be mounted to the Pro-tech back via this hardware. Use of an alternative style of lateral bracket on a Pro-tech back may result in an inappropriate fit and inefficient lateral pad placement, thus rendering the client in a poor seating position, and possibly reducing or limiting functional performance.

Basic Justifications

AEL Standard Fixed Lateral Brackets

This lateral bracket is a required component for mounting the lateral pads/supports to the frame. This bracket is medically necessary as without proper lateral bracket support, the client's lateral pads will not be placed and supported, thus resulting in poor positioning, decreased torso support for the client and subsequently a reduction in functional performance.

Basic Justifications

AEL Offset-In Lateral Brackets

The offset-in lateral bracket is medically necessary for this client as the width of the client's torso is narrower than the width of the wheelchair seat back, and this offset-in bracket will allow the lateral pad to be placed in a close-fitting position to the client's trunk despite the client's anatomical stature as compared to the chair. Without this offset-in design, the client would experience an inappropriate fit due to inefficient lateral pad placement, thus rendering the client in a poor seating position, namely lateral lean, and possibly reducing or limiting functional performance due to his/her trunk weakness.

Basic Justifications

AEL Offset-Out Lateral Brackets

The offset-out lateral bracket is medically necessary for this client as the width of the client's torso is wider than the width of the wheelchair seat back. This offset-out bracket will allow the lateral pad to be placed in a close-fitting position to the client's trunk despite the client's anatomical stature as compared to the chair. Without this offset-out design, the client would experience an inappropriate fit due to inefficient lateral pad placement, thus rendering the client in a poor seating position, and possibly reducing or limiting functional performance due to his/her trunk weakness.



Basic Justifications

AEL Pro-tech Standard Lateral Brackets

The client will be utilizing a Pro-tech wheelchair back, and as a result, will require the use of Pro-tech standard lateral bracket, as these lateral pads are specifically designed to be mounted to the Pro-tech back via this hardware. Use of an alternative style of lateral bracket on a Pro-tech back may result in an inappropriate fit and inefficient lateral pad placement, thus rendering the client in a poor seating position, and possibly reducing or limiting functional performance.

Basic Justifications

AEL Clamp Brackets

The AEL clamp bracket is required to mount laterals to the wheelchair frame via a clamp mechanism while providing vertical, lateral and depth adjustment, thus optimizing the mounting location and support offered by the lateral support/pad. It allows the mounting location to be precisely where the client requires the support, while ensuring unrestricted movement, reducing the risk of skin breakdown and preventing poor alignment of the client's trunk. The clamp bracket is medically necessary, as without its use, inappropriate fit and inefficient lateral pad placement will occur, thus rendering the client in a poor seating position, and possibly reducing or limiting functional performance, and/or causing skin breakdown.

Basic Justifications

AEL Clamp Slide Release with Pad Mounting Brackets

The patient will require use of the AEL clamp slide release with pad mounting bracket in order to mount the lateral pad to the wheelchair frame via a clamp mechanism while readily offering anterior and posterior adjustments. The clamp slide release bracket is medically necessary as it allows the lateral to be removed completely from the wheelchair to allow safe transfers to and from the wheelchair. Without use of this bracket, an inappropriate fit and inefficient lateral pad placement will occur, thus rendering the client in a poor seating position, increasing the risk of difficult and unsafe transfers as well as possibly reducing or limiting functional performance, and/or causing skin breakdown.

Basic Justifications

AEL Removable Hip Pad Bracket

The client requires hip pads to keep his/her femurs and pelvis aligned while seated. This removable hip pad bracket will ensure that the femur and pelvis are kept in a stable, neutral position on the seating surface via the hip pad, while eliminating the risk for malalignment which leads to decreased postural control and reduced ADL performance. This removable hip pad bracket contains a one-handed, spring loaded release mechanism to ensure ease in removal as necessary. Without the use of this hardware, the patient's hip pad would be rendered useless, as it would be unable to be mounted to the wheelchair's seating system.



Basic Justifications

AEL Adjustable Angle Hip Pad Bracket

Due to the patient's anatomical structure and orthopedic presentation, the client will require an AEL adjustable angle hip pad bracket, offering up to 50° of angle adjustment, in order to properly position the femurs and pelvis in a stable, neutral position. It is medically necessary to provide the patient with an adjustable angle feature in order to accommodate for his/her orthopedic presentation (include specifics here if applicable). Without the use of the adjustable angle feature, the client's femurs and pelvis will not be aligned properly, thus resulting in increased risk of orthopedic injury, decreased postural control and reduced ADL performance.

In the event the client requires any of the above noted hardware with **slots included** in its design, the following statement may be included to further aid in justification:

The slot-based design of this hardware allows slight and precise adjustments to be made along the bracket plane, in order to offer the utmost in accommodation and successful positioning.