

LETTER OF MEDICAL NECESSITY

Equipment Recommendation

Name:

D.O.B.: 5/14/1998

Date:

Diagnoses: Cerebral Palsy – Spastic Diplegia, Scoliosis, Sensory Integration Disorder, Attention-Deficit/
Hyperactivity Disorder and Hyperhidrosis

Allie is a twenty-one year old young woman with the diagnoses noted above per school records. She wears a Thoracic Lumbar Sacral Orthosis (TLSO) given the severity of her scoliosis. Past medical history includes muscle/tendon lengthening surgery. Medication is taken to decrease muscle tone and address hyperhidrosis.

Allie is approximately 5' tall and weighs 92 pounds. She lives at home with her parents who serve as her primary caregivers. Allie presents with significant extensor tone, limited strength, reduced range of motion in all extremities and limited overall mobility. With the exception of eating and drinking after set-up assistance, she is dependent on caregivers for all activities of daily living including all personal care and hygiene needs.

Allie receives direct and consultative physical and occupational therapies in her school setting. This occupational therapist has worked with Allie for the last 3.5 years in her current school setting as well as in the past when Allie was in Grades 2-6.

Allie uses a power wheelchair to meet her seating and mobility needs. She is able to operate her wheelchair independently with safety supervision in crowded spaces. Her power chair includes a number of tilt options to assist with pressure relief. Allie uses her wheelchair during most of her waking hours.

Allie uses a tablet for multiple purposes including: 1) use of a communication app to supplement her voice and gestures; 2) access the internet including information about community events and resources; 3) email; 4) document events and appointments on a digital calendar and 5) take and share photos with others. These tablet functions and Allie's power wheelchair are the key means through which Allie experiences some independence in life **and interacts and connects with others.**

The height of Allie's wheelchair and joystick location make it difficult for Allie's wheelchair to fit under standard height tables. As a result, Allie requires one Mount'n Mover **Dual Arm ?** wheelchair mount and lap tray with lip so that she has access to a flat surface ****at armrest level?** when eating, completing volunteer job tasks, participating in recreational activities and anytime she needs access to everyday objects in her environment. The lip on the tray is required as Allie needs to recline her chair on and off during the day for pressure relief.

Could add: ability to change the tilt angle for visual access if applicable.

Allie requires a second Mount'n Mover dual arm mount so she also has appropriate access to her tablet throughout the day. As noted, the above-described tablet functions are the key means through which Allie is able to experience some independence and social connectedness to others. Placing the tablet on the lap tray described above would negatively impact Allie's posture as the height of the lap tray would be too low for the tablet and negatively impact Allie's cervical and upper thoracic posture because of her **TLSO she is unable to flex her trunk**. A second Mount'n Mover arm would allow for the tablet to be positioned at a height that supports Allie's postural alignment as well as her physical and visual access to the tablet.

A Mount'n Mover mount system with the specific items listed in the attached quote meet Allie's need for a durable mount that fits her current wheelchair and provides the additional features described below:

Ability to Independently Re-Position. Despite her limited upper-extremity strength, Allie would be able to independently re-position each tray given the unique design of the Mount'n Mover. This includes when preparing to transfer in/out of her wheelchair, **pull up to a table**, to reduce glare on her tablet device, to access narrow doorways and in response to Allie's positioning changes throughout the day.

Other swing-away mounts require approximately 5 pounds to unlock, require a much greater range of motion and swing to a non-functional position. The Mount'n Mover's low effort levers require less than 2 pounds of force to unlock and reposition the trays. Re-positioning can be accomplished with one hand and with minimal dexterity. The dual arm version of the mount minimizes the reach required to reposition and retrieve the trays. The dual arm version is required for Allie given her limited upper extremity range of motion and strength.

Access from a Tilted Position. The Mount'n Mover system would allow Allie to safely tilt her wheelchair for pressure relief while maintaining visual and physical access to her lap tray with lip and tablet tray.

Customizable and Repeatable Positioning. The Mount'n Mover system makes it easy to set multiple memory lock positions for optimal access. Multiple lock positions allow for multiple functional positions.

No special tools are required to reconfigure the locking positions and so the system adapts as a user's needs change over time. No other mounting system offers multiple memory lock positions.

Safety. The ease with which the Mount'n Mover's position and tilt angle can be adjusted would allow Allie the ability to ensure clear visual access when driving her wheelchair. In addition, the system can be quickly moved out of the way in case of emergency. **Access to device provides the ability for her to communicate with when in distress when in her wheelchair**

Positive functional and psychosocial impact research: Results indicate competence, adaptability and self-esteem increased as a result of using a Mount'n Mover movable mount.

<https://mountnmover.com/sites/default/files/Functional%20and%20Psychosocial%20Impact%20of%20Accessible%20Mounting%20Technology.pdf>

This justification is provided after communication with Allie and her mother and after working with Allie for multiple years. The goals of the recommended Mount'n Mover equipment when Allie is using her power wheelchair are to: 1) provide Allie a flat surface for meals and drinks and other everyday items; 2) visual and physical access to her tablet device which serves many functions that increase Allie's independence **and ability to communicate**; 3) a mounting system that meets the first two goals while also allowing Allie to safely and independently reposition the system herself.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Allie's needs. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at

Augmentative Communication Wheelchair Mounting System Evaluation

Background Information

Susie O. currently resides at home in _____. She is reported to be healthy with a stable medical status. Susie receives PCA assistance at home to assist her in areas of daily living activities. She currently participates in early childhood classes in a center based special education program. She receives direct assistance for her academic activities and all daily cares. Susie relies on symbol communication supports to respond during academic and structured language learning activities, including reading and pre-writing.

Susie O. presents as a 3-year-old female with a medical diagnosis of Rett Syndrome and expressive/receptive speech and language delay. Susie was referred for an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Evaluation because of concerns regarding her ability to functionally express herself in daily environments and settings this included a wheelchair mounting system evaluation. The AAC evaluation recommends she receive the DynaVox Vmax accessed via single switch visual and auditory scanning which requires the device to be used while Susie is in her wheelchair. Please see Augmentative Communication Report for more details. This wheelchair mounting system evaluation was completed by _____, Speech Language Pathologist, and _____, Occupational Therapist.

Susie needs a wheelchair system to fit on her manual wheelchair. With the device properly positioned and attached to the wheelchair will allow Susie independent access to the Vmax communication device in all communicative situations. A mounting system is necessary in order for Susie to effectively communicate in all situations and to make adjustments based on her physical needs.

Required Features of a Wheelchair Mount

Based on Susie's motor abilities, positioning and physical needs the following features were identified as being required in a wheelchair mounting system for the DynaVox Vmax with single switch access. Without these features, it is unlikely she would be able to meet her functional communication needs.

Her mounting system needs to allow for her re-positioning needs. Susie's positioning needs change during the day as she tires, tone changes, is moving from room to room. Susie is unable to move any mounting system due to her physical limitations. A staff member or family member/caregiver will need to move/make the adjustments as needed by Susie.

- The mounting system needs to allow for adjustments in positioning due
 - Fatigue
 - Growth
 - Results of changing tone
 - Other physical effects Sally's diagnosis has on her movements.
 - Changes in her environment
 - To see and interact with her environment (see her teacher, peers, where she is going)
 - To access other tools, books, toys
- The mounting system needs to be accessible while Susie is:
 - Communicating
 - Eating
 - During transfers
 - In the classroom
 - Moving

The mounting system needs to provide multiple operating positions, ones that allow for subtle changes that still enable Susie to access the device and doesn't interfere with ability to interact in her surroundings.

- While communicating; the mounting system is needed to enable Susie to independently access the DynaVox VMax. In order for Susie to communicate in all of the above situations the devices need to be adjusted in the following manner:
 - Needs to move laterally to access other materials
 - Needs to be readily available (always on her wheelchair)
 - Needs to tilt vertically in order to be able to see her communication partners (peers/teachers/caregivers/family/therapists) and they need to be able to see her.
- While eating; the mounting system needs to be adjusted in the following manner:
 - Needs to adjust the height to allow Susie to pull up to a table
 - Needs to move laterally to allow caregivers to feed her and yet let her communicate at the same time.
 - Needs to be quickly moved in the event of choking.
- During transfers:
 - The DynaVox Vmax and mount must be moved out of the way so it is not a hazard to Susie or her caregivers.
 - The mount must not tip the wheelchair over
 - To move the device out of the way rather than removing it entirely to protect the device from damage as well as make sure it doesn't get left behind. If the device always needs to be removed and gets "set down" somewhere leaves it vulnerable to damage and loss.
- In the classroom, the mounting system needs to be adjusted in the following manner:
 - Needs to move laterally to access other materials (books, art projects, slant board etc.) for doing other classroom activities, besides communicating. During these activities she still needs to communicate so the DynaVox Vmax needs to be positioned to allow access to the materials and to either be moved or accessed when the other materials are in use.
 - Needs to be readily available (always on her wheelchair)
 - Needs to tilt vertically in order to be able to see the teacher, the white board or Smart Board, and computer to receive and participate in her academic instruction.
- While moving down the hallway, the mounting system needs to be adjusted in the following manner:
 - The device needs to be moved toward her or tilted down so she can be pushed around with being able to see what's in front of her.

Assessment of Specific Equipment

Daessy Mounting System

The Daessy mounting system is a rigid wheelchair mount. This mount can swing away to the side and back again. It can be folded down by the side of her wheelchair. In either of these positions Susie can not access the DynaVox. With the device positioned on a rigid mount it would be difficult for her to interact with her surroundings. In order for Susie to eat, access materials, transfer, etc. the device would need to be removed making it impossible for her to communicate using the DynaVox VMax. When in the classroom or moving through the halls the Daessy mount would not allow the DynaVox Vmax to be tilted. To enable Susie to see the teacher, Smart board, where she was going, computer etc. the device would need to be removed. Again this makes it impossible for her to interact in these situations. The Daessy mounting system was rejected due to its inability to allow for multiple operating positions. The Daessy mounting system does not offer the features Susie requires to successfully communicate independently in all situations and environments with multiple communication partners.

Mount'n Mover Mounting System

The Mount'n Mover mounting system is a multi joint adjustable mounting system. It adjusts without the use of tools. It will allow the VMax to be easily moved, allowing access in multiple positions. The Mount'n Mover mount was trialed for one month during the AAC evaluation. When the device was positioned for Susie to be able to access it; she was unable to interact with her surroundings. She could communicate using the DynaVox Vmax while eating, accessing materials, in the classroom or moving through the halls. The Mount'n Mover was easily adjusted by her caregivers to allow the DynaVox VMax to be re-positioned in any of these settings. During transfers and eating the Mount'n Mover was re-positioned laterally to enable her caregivers to feed and move her without removing the device from the mount or the mount from the wheelchair.

- The Locking Mount 'N Mover can be locked in multiple positions. The Easy Mover is non-locking but resistance to move can be customized to meet the client's needs.
- The Mount 'N Mover is easily height adjustable. It can still maintain angles.
- With the Mount 'N Mover, the tilt is adjustable WITHOUT TOOLS
- The Mount 'N Mover has multiple operating positions, and allows for Susie to communicate independently in all situations and environments with multiple communication partners.
- The Mount 'N Mover was easy to use regardless of who is working with her. There is less training involved with this mounting system, since it provides consistent positioning even when adjusted because the specific locations can be set or it can be subtly adjusted as well.

Summary and Recommendations:

Susie presents as a 3 year old female with a medical diagnosis of Rett Syndrome and expressive/receptive speech and language delay. In order to meet her functional communication needs Susie relies on a DynaVox Vmax with single switch access. She needs her device accessible to her at all times to make sure she can communicate independently. Therefore, it must be mounted to her wheelchair. Susie has multiple caregivers; the mounting system needs to be easy for them to adjust and yet enable Susie to still access the DynaVox Vmax for communicating. A Mount'n Mover mounting system by BlueSky Designs, fitted to her manual wheelchair should be purchased. This will allow Susie to be an independent communicator accessing her DynaVox Vmax in all communicative situations.

Signatures

The evaluation results have been discussed with Susie's family/caregivers and school team have been agreed upon by all. Sally's family/caregivers and school team are supportive of the use of the Mount'n Mover with the DynaVox Vmax. If you have any questions regarding this assessment and recommendations, please feel free to contact me.

MA, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist

OTR/L
Occupational Therapist

Note: The speech-language pathologist conducting this evaluation has no financial relationship with nor will receive any financial gain from the supplier of this device.

Mount'n Mover Letter of Medical Necessity

Contact Person:	Diagnosis:	CDKL-5 Deficiency Disorder
	Cortical visual impairment, Nystagmus, Hypotropia	
	Hyperopic astigmatism, Intractable Epilepsy	
	Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome,	
	Gastro-esophageal reflux disease without esophagitis,	
	Congenital Hypotonia, Genetic susceptibility to other diseases	
	Chromosomal Abnormality, Genetic Disorder	
	Decreased Bone Density	
Speech Dx:	Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder	

Background Information

██████████ is a 6-year-old female who currently resides at home with her parents and siblings in ██████████. She is reported to be healthy with a stable medical status. ██████████ is enrolled with ██████████ in the 1st grade. She has IEP supports. ██████████ currently utilizes an eye-gaze communication system to respond and interact with adults/peers during academic learning activities. She also utilizes this communication system to communicate her wants and needs with her family members.

██████████ has been diagnosed with CDKL5 Deficiency Disorder. This causes several other co-morbidities, including intractable epilepsy, profound global developmental impairments and severe gastro-esophageal reflux with spit up. Her medical condition is very complex and rare. She is followed by several specialists. ██████████ is currently healthy but suffers from frequent upper respiratory infections that have resulted in numerous hospitalizations in the past. Her overall respiratory health is primarily managed at home with a suction machine, SmartVest Airway Clearance System, oxygen and monitoring with a pulse oximeter. Aubree also has decreased bone density which puts her at a higher risk for fractures.

██████████ has numerous types of seizures per day. ██████████'s seizures frequently change secondary to her medical diagnoses. In the past, she's had generalized Tonic/Clonic, Infantile Spasms, Tonic Spasms, Atypical Absence and Hypermotor Tonic Spasm Sequence type seizures. The frequency of her seizures increases with illness, when overheated, overtired and with sudden changes of barometric pressure.

From a physical standpoint, ██████████ is non-ambulatory. She has difficulty getting into a sitting position, but once placed she can maintain a sitting position for a brief period (less than 1 minute). When upright, ██████████ will lose her balance and fall over. She lacks protective reactions so unless closely monitored, these falls could result in injury.

In terms of her abilities with activities of daily living, ██████████ is completely dependent for all cares including feeding, bathing and clothing management. She is incontinent of bowel and bladder and is dependent for all diaper changes.

██████████ primary method of communication is via a dedicated device utilizing eye gaze software. She has had an Accent 1400 since the summer of 2019. This AAC system was recommended by her current speech-language pathologist, Rachel Rohlf.

To access eye gaze technology, ██████████ requires sitting in an upright posture in her chair to promote good head positioning. Without proper posture provided by a chair, ██████████ is unable to access her dedicated communication device, leaving family and caregivers to interpret her non-verbal communication attempts. Without her device, ██████████ has demonstrated increased frustration as she cannot clearly communicate her wants and needs. A mounting system is needed so ██████████ can effectively communicate in all environments.

█████ currently has a table-top mount. A table-top mount was acquired because █████'s previous chair (R-82 Stingray Manual Wheelchair) did not allow for a wheelchair mount, as the tubing was not strong enough to ensure a stable connection. █████ recently got a new chair in 2020 (RD12 Rodeo Transit), and the tubing for this chair allows for a stable connection of a wheelchair mount to her chair. The table-top mounting system is not always readily available, and always requires set up and positioning for █████ to use. If █████ is in her chair and an appropriate surface is not available (e.g. a table high enough for the mount to sit), █████ is unable to effectively use her communication device. The constant set-up is cumbersome and has limited her ability to effectively communicate with others in a variety of environments.

Required Features of a Wheelchair Mount

Based on █████ physical and positioning needs, the following features were identified as being required in a wheelchair mounting system for the Accent 1400 to work. Without these features, it is unlikely she would be able to meet her functional communication needs.

Her mounting system needs to allow for her re-positioning needs. █████'s positioning needs change throughout the day, as she tires and moves from room to room. █████ is unable to move any mounting system due to her physical limitations. A teacher, paraeducator, or family member/caregiver will need to move/make the adjustments as needed for █████.

- The mounting system needs to allow for adjustments in positioning due to:
 - Fatigue
 - Growth
 - Results of changing tone
 - Other physical effects Sally's diagnosis has on her movements
 - Changes in her environment
 - To see and interact with her environment
 - To access other tools, books, toys etc.
- The mounting system needs to be accessible while Aubree is:
 - Communicating
 - Eating
 - Before/after transfers
 - In the classroom

The mounting system needs to provide multiple operating positions, one that allows for subtle changes that still enable █████ to access the device and doesn't interfere with her ability to interact with her surroundings.

- While communicating, the system needed must allow █████ to independently access the Accent 1400. For this to happen, the device needs to be adjusted in the following manners:
 - Needs to move laterally to access other materials in her environment
 - Needs to be readily available (always on her wheelchair)

- Needs to tilt vertically so she can see her communication partners and so they can see her
- While eating, the mounting system needs to be adjusted in the following manner:
 - Needs to adjust the height to allow Aubree to pull up to a table
 - Needs to move laterally to allow caregivers to feed her and allow her to communicate simultaneously
 - Needs to be moved quickly in the event of choking
- During transfers:
 - Her device and mount need to be able to be moved out of the way so it is not a hazard to [REDACTED] or her caregivers during transfers
 - The mount must not tip the chair over
 - To move the device out of the way rather than removing it entirely to protect the device from damage and to make sure it doesn't get left behind. If the device always needs to be removed and gets "set down" somewhere, it is then vulnerable to damage and loss.
- In the classroom, the mounting system needs to be adjusted in the following manner:
 - Needs to move laterally to access other materials (books, art supplies etc.) for doing other classroom activities, besides communicating. During these activities she still needs to communicate so the Accent 1400 needs to be positioned to allow access to the materials and to either be moved or accessed when the other materials are in use.
 - Needs to be readily available. It always needs to be on her wheelchair.
 - Needs to tilt vertically in order to be able to see the teacher, the white board or Smart Board, and computer to receive and participate in her academic instruction.
- While moving down the hallway, the mounting system needs to be adjusted in the following manner:
 - The device needs to be moved toward her or tilted down so she can be pushed around with being able to see what's in front of her.

Assessment of Specific Equipment

Rehadapt Chair Mount

A Rehadapt chair mount was considered, but ultimately rejected. The mount considered is heavier than the Mount'n Mover (5 pounds compared to the 3.2 pounds of the Mount'n Mover) and requires increased effort in order to adjust. To adjust the mount, it would require unlocking and locking a lever to achieve the correct position for [REDACTED]. This prevents [REDACTED] from easily interacting with her environment. The adjustment process would require training for her caregivers at school, which can be cumbersome. This mount is not appropriate for [REDACTED] and her chair.

Mount'n Mover Mounting System

The Mount'n Mover mounting system is a multi-joint adjustable mounting system. It attaches directly to the chair. It adjusts without the use of tools. It will allow the Accent 1400 to be easily moved, allowing access in multiple positions. A formal trial of the Mount'n Mover mount was not completed, as this is a customized item which would have required modifications to her chair/tubing system. Although a trial period was not completed, this mount is versatile, flexible, and will allow [REDACTED] consistent and easy

access to her communication device in a variety of settings. This mount can be easily adjusted by her caregivers to allow the Accent 1400 to be re-positioned in any setting (e.g. eating lunch, in the hallway, in the classroom, during activities of daily living). During transfers and eating, the Mount'n Mover can be easily re-positioned laterally to enable her caregivers to feed and move her without removing the device from the mount or the mount from the wheelchair. Additional benefits of this mounting system include:

- The Mount 'N Mover is easily height adjustable. It can still maintain angles.
- With the Mount 'N Mover, the tilt is adjustable WITHOUT TOOLS
- The Mount 'N Mover has multiple operating positions and will allow [REDACTED] to communicate independently in all situations and environments with multiple communication partners.

The Mount 'N Mover is easy to use regardless of who is working with [REDACTED]. There is less training involved with this mounting system, since it provides consistent positioning even when adjusted because the specific locations can be set, or it can be subtly adjusted.

Tilt Plate Adapter for Daessy Table Mount

The Daessy Tabletop mount has an X-base design that allows [REDACTED] to access her eye-gaze communication device. The mount is adjustable, allowing caretakers and teacher to move the device vertically to allow [REDACTED] access to her device wherever she is safely seated (e.g. in wheelchair, in Special Tomato Floor Sitter). The mount also has rotational adjustment for further customization, allowing caretakers to tilt the device forward or backward to ensure best positioning. This mount must be placed on a flat surface. This mount is not attached to her chair. As stated earlier, [REDACTED] previous chair (R-82 Stingray Manual Wheelchair) did not allow for a wheelchair mount, as the tubing was not strong enough to ensure a stable connection. Therefore, a mount that attaches to her chair was not acquired at that time because it would have compromised the structural integrity of her chair. Risk of the device falling and breaking also would have been increased.

The Daessy mount is the only mount that [REDACTED] currently has. If the Mount'n Mover mounting system is approved, a new Tilt Plate Adapter using a quick release plate will be needed on her current table top mount in order to allow [REDACTED] to access her device when she is not in her chair (e.g. when seated in her Special Tomato Floor Sitter when interacting with her siblings). If [REDACTED] does not have this mount or the Tilt Plate Adapter, this would significantly limit the situations in which [REDACTED] can access her device, forcing her caregivers to interpret her nonverbal gestures.

Summary and Recommendations:

[REDACTED] is a 6-year-old female with a complicated medical history and a receptive-expressive language disorder. To effectively communicate her wants and needs, [REDACTED] relies on an Accent 1400 via eye-gaze access. [REDACTED] always needs to be able to access her device in order to ensure communication independence. Therefore, it must be mounted on her chair. Only using a table-top mount is not enough. [REDACTED] has multiple caregivers throughout her day, and the mounting system needs to be an easy way for them to adjust and allow [REDACTED] to access her voice through the Accent 1400. A Mount'n Mover mounting system by Blue Sky Designs, fitted to her chair, is medically necessary in order to allow her the

independence she deserves. A Tilt Plate Adapter with quick release is also necessary in order to allow [REDACTED] to continue utilizing her Daessy tabletop mount when not in her chair. This independence of being able to communicate in all situations will increase her quality of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

CCC-SLP

P.T., DPT

I agree with the above recommended equipment and plan of care.

Dr.