

March 17, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to highlight the differences between the "Up N Go" dynamic gait trainer and the standard gait trainer that has been approved for _____ as per the letter of denial dated February 28, 2008.

_____ is a 12 yo girl with a h/o seizure disorder and subsequent developmental delay. _____ currently uses a Rifton standard gait trainer at school for weight bearing and gait activities. She does not have a gait trainer for home use. In January 2008, _____ was given a trial using an "Up n' Free" gait trainer in our office by the designer and manufacturer "Easy Walking." She responded very well to this dynamic gait training system with improved postural and LE alignment, control and endurance.

The "Up n' Free" gait trainer provided dynamic body weight support through the seating system that facilitated proper pelvic alignment and thus encouraged _____ to be more active in her trunk and LE's to maintain an upright, weight bearing posture for a longer period time as compared to the standard Rifton gait trainer in which she "hangs " on the forearm support and does not maintain proper pelvis/ trunk and LE alignment and frequently "collapses " into the gait trainer. Similarly, the Up n' Free's dynamic hydraulic support system encourages _____ to be more active through her LE's by pushing off the floor for sit<>stand transition as compared to the Rifton gait trainer in which she is placed in standing position only with no opportunities for LE strengthening with sit<>stand transitions.

For gait training purposes, the Up n' Free provides the opportunity for hands on facilitation through _____'s trunk and LE's as she is well supported through the seating system as compared to the Rifton gait trainer in which the PT must keep hands _____'s forearms to maintain an upright posture with no opportunity for facilitation of proper lateral weight shifts or LE alignment. The Up n' Free allows for more normal trunk rotation and freedom of movement creating more natural patterns of movement during the gait cycle.

Finally, the cost of these two gait training devices is very comparable with the large Rifton Gait trainer with chest supports and arm prompts priced at \$2195, and the Up n' Free with additional chest support at \$3400. The long term benefits of additional weight bearing, strengthening and dynamic gait training opportunities however, as outlined above, are dramatically different.