

I am writing this letter, on behalf of XXXX, due to denial of a request for an Up n' Free Walker. The following information will outline to the importance of Conner's ambulation.

1. Bone deterioration is a concern. Just like everything else, if they are not being used though weight bearing, they will lose their tone and become soft and brittle as time goes on. Walking will ensure that this will not become a problem for him.
2. Spasticity is another issue. Spasticity occurs when, from the nonuse the ligaments and muscles in the legs, the joints begin to contract. The exercises that he does on a daily basis are simply not enough to address this problem.
3. Spasticity restricts his range of motion and hampers his day to day living in simple things such as getting dressed and transferring in and out of his wheelchair. Assisted walking would promote the all important stretching effect that non-quadruplegics get every time they walk.
4. In regard to the musculoskeletal system, it has been demonstrated that immobilization of muscle and lack of weight bearing on bones causes demineralization and true osteoporosis. This may cause pathological fractures. It may cause lose of bone calcium which also leads to deposition of calcium in the soft tissue and joints causing ankylosis or permanent fixation of the joint.
5. Prolonged muscular mobilization has a direct effect on joints. Contractures of the joint capsule and surrounding muscles can cause restriction of the range of motion of the joint, lack of movement in the joints results in a lack of synovial fluid and will lead to irreversible degenerative changes in the joint cartilage.

It is not possible for XXXX to use a "standard walker" for ambulation due to a nonfunctional right hand/arm.

For the above reasons, it would be detrimental to XXXX's health to not be given the opportunity to ambulate using an Up n' Free walker.