

Sample Clinical Reasoning Form – Jenx Prone Stander



Sample letters of medical necessity are not intended to provide exact guidance on how to apply for funding for any product or service. Every patient is unique, with their own individual needs. Ultimately, health care providers should undertake a robust clinical assessment of each patient and make an informed clinical decision regarding the appropriateness of a particular product for that patient. Applications to any funding source must be factually accurate and accurately reflect the individual needs of the applicant patient.

Jiraffe cannot guarantee the success in obtaining insurance or third-party funding of any kind.

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Seating

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Describe who you are, your role, client's name and state the equipment you are seeking funding for

I am a qualified (insert profession) and I am writing this report on behalf of **X**. As **X**'s therapist, I am requesting funding for a Jenx Prone Stander. The Prone Stander is a medical necessity that would not be required in the absence of disability, illness, or injury. The following report explains the medical justification.

Explain the client's diagnosis, disability and past medical history (Include functional ability and limitations in segmental body control, overview of other impairments)

X is 6 years old and has a diagnosis of complex Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia and Epilepsy. They are affected by ataxia and have mild learning difficulties. They are under the care of Paediatricians, Genetics Team, Neurology, and the Orthopaedic team as part of a hip surveillance pathway. **X** also receives regular input from Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy. They attend a specialist school with access to hydrotherapy weekly.

Tone/Movement/Strength: **X** is affected by high tone and weakness through their lower limbs and has difficulties with fine motor skills and hand – eye coordination. They have bilateral contractures through knee flexors and ankle plantar flexors, but full range of motion through their upper limbs. They have good head control. They are currently trialling 4-monthly Botox injections to their ankle plantar flexors, under the tone management team, to see if this aids mobility and standing ability.

Posture: **X** has a flexed posture through their lower limbs bilaterally. Their foot posture and range of motion is supported with AFO's and orthotic footwear bilaterally. When using their walker, they mobilise with a scissor-type gait. There are no concerns with spinal posture currently. **X** has been diagnosed with bilateral hip dysplasia, which is being monitored by the orthopaedic team, but currently does not require any surgical intervention.

Ambulation/Functional Walking Status: **X** mobilises around home predominantly via crawling. However, at school they mobilise short distances with a posterior walking frame and pelvic support. They use a wheelchair for most outdoor mobility and are learning to use a self-propel chair, whilst awaiting an assessment for a powered wheelchair.

Communication: **X** is dysarthric but can communicate well when understanding the conversation and can communicate thoughts and feelings. **X** uses an iPad to aid their communication.

Hearing: **X** wears hearing aids and is under the care of the local Audiology team.

Vision: No concerns

Cardio-respiratory status/other: No concerns

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Explain the impact of the client's diagnosis on their life (Discuss the implications and limitations without access to therapeutic equipment)

X's mobility and gross motor skills are severely impacted by their diagnosis. They are affected daily by pain, fatigue and stiffness. Their condition is a progressive disease, meaning their symptoms gradually get worse over time, and any adaptive equipment they use must be agile to this. They need support for nearly all their daily tasks, but access to the appropriate adaptive equipment can ensure they have more and more periods of independence throughout the day.

Their limited mobility leaves them at risk of a much more sedentary lifestyle and secondary physical complications, which both bring an increased risk of younger mortality. Not having access to a standing frame limits their opportunities to be physically active, to weight bear and to socially interact with their peers and family. Without a standing frame, X will likely feel more isolated, have worsening mental well-being and reduced quality of life.

Provide an overview of the equipment for which you are seeking funding and the physical benefits in relation to the client (Explain how the equipment will provide physical benefits to the client's individual needs, support with clinical references if able)

The Jenx Prone Stander is specifically designed to support children with standing and accessing their environment in a safe and stable frame. The Prone Stander is highly adjustable and can support postures with lower limb contractures. It is easily adjustable to challenge and develop skill, and its open design encourages practice of functional tasks – such as sit-to-stand transfers. The prone angle can be adjusted with the user in the frame, which is unique. This feature alone offers easy opportunities for X to experience standing in a variety of active ways and use the stander for stretching lower limb musculature and developing head and trunk control further.

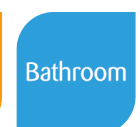
A systematic review has suggested appropriately – dosed standing programmes may positively affect healthy skeletal development, maintaining range of motion and spasticity, whilst enabling eye-to-eye interaction with peers. (Paley et al, 2013). Standing frames can also positively influence hip stability, respiratory and cardiovascular systems, bladder and bowel function, cognitive function, improved confidence and self-esteem, improved ability to communicate, improved physical activity levels and mobility, supporting outcomes across all domains of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health framework (Goodwin et al, 2018; Paley & Livingstone, 2022; Krarup et al, 2024).

A recent position paper and scoping review has reaffirmed this evidence and explicitly stated that standing devices support the prevention of comorbidities accumulated from prolonged sitting in those with physical disability and that the use of standing frames should no longer be considered experimental in their use, they are a medical necessity (Masselink et al., 2024).

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The Prone Stander will grow with **X** for several years – even joining them in secondary school.

Describe the psychological benefits of equipment (Include benefits to carers and family as well as client if able, support with clinical references if able)

X loves to stand and is happier and more confident when standing. They see their friends standing at school and siblings standing at home and want to join in their activities in the same way. A standing frame encourages inclusion and participation, which supports more positive mental wellbeing. Whilst **X** can stand with a crouched pattern against a wall or with hand-held support, it is extremely fatiguing, uncomfortable and limits their ability to use their upper limbs. **X** loves to use their stander to play video games with their siblings or paint in Art with their classmates. **X** is happy when standing, and the adjustability of the Prone Stander will ensure they remain comfortable in standing. **X** likes to be as independent as possible, and standing to play without the physical support of support of a carer gives them that independence.

Discuss other equipment experiences that have not been appropriate for client (Why were the other equipment not appropriate in relation to the client's needs? Re-iterate benefits of Prone Stander in comparison, include specific details of other products as appropriate)

A previous upright standing frame which was funded for **X** cannot adequately support their more complex lower posture anymore. It was also static which severely impeded **X**'s access to their environment. Another prone stander that was trialled did not have adequate growth and would need re-funding in just a few years. It also could not be adjusted into prone with the user still in the frame, which increases care-burden when using the frame.

Describe the equipment and accessories being requested for the client

X will require:

- 1 Prone Stander Frame Size 2
- 1 Knee Blocks Size 2
- 1 Elbow Blocks
- 1 Sandals Size 2
- 1 Ankle Snugs Size 2
- 1 Sandal Raising Blocks size 2

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Use descriptions of medical necessity below to assist with the clinical need in relation to the client, delete items as appropriate.

Jenx Prone Stander components and medical necessity

(Delete items as required)

Item	Description of Medical Necessity
Prone Stander Frame 	Supports the user in an upright, forward leaning position that requires adequate head control. Has smooth and easy angle adjustment, even with the child in the product, that can go from upright at 90 degrees down to 20 degrees prone. This wide-angle range can be used to gradually build tolerance to standing as part of a therapy programme and promote extensor muscle strength. Can be used therapeutically to provide a sustained stretch to musculature, develop weight shifting, balance, reaching and midline control. The thoracic and pelvic support along with flexible leg positioning make the Prone Stander a versatile option for the unique and individual needs of most children. Weight bearing can be beneficial for strength, bone mineral density, digestion, postural control, tone reduction, musculoskeletal development and respiratory function. Available in Size 1 or 2, accommodating users from approx. 3 - 14 years or up to 70kg The size 2 frame will support users from an average age of 6 to 14 years old. Therefore, X will not require another frame for several years, providing cost efficiency. The frame has adjustments to support hip and knee contractures comfortably – where other standers have failed. The Prone angle can easily be adjusted with the user in the frame – easing care burden and providing a variety of easy positioning as part of an active standing programme.

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Elbow Blocks 	Used to encourage arms into a midline position and/or to block excessive retraction, made from grey polyurethane foam and come as a pair. X has some difficulties with midline upper limb function when fatigued and the elbow blocks provide a gentle prompt to aid functioning, and a gentle support when resting.
Knee Blocks 	Innovative and flexible PU knee cups available in two sizes. Complete with padded knee straps, and are adjustable for height, width, angle and depth. The knee blocks can be adjusted to support X's hamstring contractures for more comfortable standing. They also assist with proving optimal lower limb alignment for stability and weightbearing. They can be adjusted individually to support X's individual lower limb postures.
Bib 	A washable Bib to protect the user during eating or play activities. Comes in a pack of three and available in two sizes.
Sandals 	Available in different sizes to accommodate the size of foot, even when wearing splints. Provide support for optimal foot positioning and an optimum base of support for standing. Straps open from the back facilitating easy stand transfers into prone standing. X can practice standing transfers easily with these sandals, whilst they provide optimal stability and positioning to make standing feel safe, secure and fun.

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Ankle Snugs 	An accessory for the sandals that can provide extra comfort, support and sensory feedback around the foot and ankle complex. The ankle snugs provide an extra layer of sensory feedback and stability for safe and fun standing for X.
Sandal Raising Blocks 	The raising block kits give the sandals that extra bit of height where needed, for example when accommodating a leg length discrepancy. 2 sets can also be used to raise the height of the footplate on the standing frame and maximise the available growth. The sandal raising blocks are essential for raising the footboard of the Prone stander size 2 for X. This means they can access a size 2 rather than a size 1, maximising growth and meaning another stander will not need to be purchased for a number of years.

Goals of Recommended Equipment (Client and Carer's voice should be central to goals, goals should be personal to client's individual needs)

Goals of the Prone Stander:

- To provide functional and safe positioning that promotes physically active standing
- To improve participation and inclusion at school
- To aid independent functioning in hobbies – playing Nintendo, painting etc
- To maintain current postural control
- To allow for energy conservation
- To improve balance
- To aid mobility
- To prevent postural deterioration
- To provide sustained stretching to lower limbs and aid reduction of spasticity and maintain ROM
- To improve interaction with peers/siblings and surroundings, including the ability to play and learn safely in an eye-level standing position.

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How does prescription of this equipment incorporate the F-Words in Childhood Disability? (Rosenbaum & Gorter, 2011)

Fitness – Regular and appropriate access to a prone standing frame could have many significant positive health benefits for **X**. These benefits could include helping to prevent postural deformity, improved hip stability or positively affecting alertness and cognitive function (Paley et al., 2013). Daily standing will help **X** stretch muscles through their lower limb for a prolonged period, reducing spasticity acutely and maintaining lower limb ROM. It will help with reducing periods of sedentary behaviour, as the standing frame will support active therapy, play and learning throughout the day. **X** has improved self-confidence in standing and feels happier and more independent in this position.

Function – Use of the Prone Stander regularly alongside **X**'s current therapy programme will encourage maintenance and even development of **X**'s postural control, standing tolerance and ability to transfer into standing. Standing with support allows **X** to focus on upper limb tasks more easily. **X** enjoys drawing in standing and using their iPad.

Friends – The Prone Stander enables **X** to stand and play with their friends at school daily and take part in as many fun and learning activities at eye level as possible. **X** wants to do activities like their friends do – standing during painting in Art or standing to play with the interactive whiteboard, and the Prone Stander allows **X** to do activities like these more easily and for longer durations.

Family – The benefits in function, fitness and participation when regularly using the Prone Stander will help **X**'s carers see that **X** can still maintain and develop their skills. The Prone Stander encourages family interaction - **X** and their siblings play on their Nintendo Switch in standing! The standing frame will help ease the care burden when in use at home as it encourages periods of independent activity for **X** and the easy adjustment in prone angle is significantly less burden than the previous standing frame for change of position.

Fun – The Prone Stander will enable lots of safe standing play at school or at home! **X** enjoys using their iPad, playing video games, and painting when using their standing frame

Future – The Prone Stander will provide safe and supportive standing for **X** that will enable improved participation and inclusion at school and home, alongside maintenance of their physical skills. It will help ensure there is no deterioration in **X**'s posture. The Prone Stander will grow with **X** and support them for many years to come.

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Discuss costs of not having equipment/cost benefits with the equipment in place

The Jenx Prone Stander is a low-cost frame that will grow with **X** into high school. Without access to a standing frame, **X** could face social exclusion, worsening mental well-being, worsening posture and deterioration of physical skills – all of which would lead to increased secondary costs and demands on health services. A significant cost has previously been made to an upright standing frame that could not comfortably support **X**'s lower limb posture, which they no longer access. It is paramount that an appropriate standing frame which can support **X** for years to come is funded.

Summary/Conclusion

The Jenx Prone Stander will enable **X** to be included age-appropriate experiences, including socialising and playing with their peers at school and home. It will encourage maintenance, and possibly development, physically, emotionally and cognitively for as long as possible, to ensure **X** maximizes their potential. It encourages greater independence and quality of life. It is essential funding is provided for the Prone Stander to maximise **X**'s potential and minimise the risk of secondary complications that may require costly medical monitoring or intervention.

Signed:

Date:

Include pictures showing the different positions the Prone Stander can support



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References

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