Seating Dynamics
Sample Medical Justification Wording

The following are sample medical justification wording for specific Dynamic Seating components which may be used in documentation, such as a Letter of Medical Necessity. Justifications are listed by clinical indicator and a client may benefit from a Dynamic Seating component for more than one reason. In that case, you may combine sample wording to address each application. Justifications should also be customized for a specific client's needs. These examples do not replace competent evaluation. If you require further assistance with documentation, please contact us for help.

Dynamic Rocker Back interface (DRBi) | Dynamic & Static Footrests | Dynamic & Static Head Support

Dynamic Rocker Back interface (DRBi)

1. For a client who requires a Dynamic Back to prevent equipment breakage and/or client injury:

    a. For the client with a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury:

    The Dynamic Rocker Back moves posteriorly in response to client force and assists the client back to an upright starting position. The Dynamic Rocker Back is recommended to absorb client forces which have led to client injury and/or equipment breakage in the past and to reduce risk of future breakage. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware. Breakage may result in the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed and in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components. *(Include a full list of past equipment damage and/or client injuries).*

    or

    b. For the client who does not have a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury, but has the potential for both:

    The Dynamic Rocker Back moves posteriorly in response to client force and assists the client back to an upright starting position. The Dynamic Rocker Back is recommended to absorb client forces which could lead to client injury and/or equipment breakage. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, hardware and in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components. Breakage may result in

the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed.

2. For a client who requires a Dynamic Back to absorb extensor forces:

The Dynamic Rocker Back moves posteriorly in response to client force and assists the client back to an upright starting position. The Dynamic Rocker Back is recommended to absorb forces resulting from active client extension. By absorbing and diffusing these forces, active extensor tone may be decreased. Reducing extensor tone may increase function, sitting tolerance, and conserve energy. Active range of motion at the hips is also provided, reducing risk and progression of range of motion losses.

3. For a client who requires a Dynamic Back to provide movement:

The Dynamic Rocker Back moves posteriorly in response to client force and assists the client back to an upright starting position. The Dynamic Rocker Back is recommended to allow movement of the client for the goals of providing vestibular input, increasing alertness, decreasing agitation, increasing sitting tolerance, and increasing function. *(Please only list those goals relevant to an individual client).*

4. For a client who requires a Dynamic Back to increase trunk strength and postural control:

The Dynamic Rocker Back moves posteriorly in response to client force and assists the client back to an upright starting position. The Dynamic Rocker Back is recommended to allow movement of the client against resistance for the goals of increasing trunk strength and improving postural control.

Dynamic Footrests

Dynamic Footrests are available in 3 configurations: telescoping, telescoping and knee extension, and telescoping, knee extension, and plantar / dorsi flexion. Justifications are provided for each configuration by clinical indicator.

When ordering Dynamic Footrests, we recommend you also order shoe holders with straps to secure the client's feet to the footplates to activate the dynamic movement (available from other manufacturers). You may also consider pads on the medial surface to prevent contact with the hardware, as appropriate. These lateral knee pads are available from Seating Dynamics and the justification for this item is listed below. These items will be justified separately in your documentation.

Please Note:

- Dynamic footrests are not standard footrests (which are considered to be included and paid for with the wheelchair purchase)
- Dynamic footrests are not a replacement footrest. Replacement parts are considered to be "like kind", as the original.
- Dynamic footrests provide function not offered by any "standard" wheelchair footrests by moving in response to client forces (involuntary or intentional). These do not move the leg as a power elevating legrest does.
- **DO NOT ABBREVIATE "DYNAMIC" IN ANY OF YOUR DOCUMENTATION. The reviewer may not know what the abbreviation refers to.**

Dynamic Footrests – telescoping feature only

By providing the telescoping feature only, rather than knee extension, pelvic position is more readily maintained in clients with tight hamstrings.

1. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to prevent equipment breakage and/or client injury:

a. For the client with a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen** in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb client forces exerted which have led to client injury and/or equipment breakage in the past and to reduce risk of future breakage or loss of footrest / footplate alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the

client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed. *(Include a full list of past equipment damage and/or client injuries).*

or

b. For the client who does not have a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury, but has the potential for both:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen** in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb client forces which could lead to client injury and/or equipment breakage or loss of footrest / footplate alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed.

2. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to absorb extensor tone:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen** in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb forces resulting from active client extension. By absorbing and diffusing these forces, extensor tone may be decreased. Reducing extensor tone may increase function, sitting tolerance, and conserve energy.

Dynamic Footrests – telescoping feature and knee extension option

1. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to prevent equipment breakage and/or client injury:

a. For the client with a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen and extend** at the knee in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb client forces which have led to client injury and/or equipment breakage in the past and to reduce risk of future breakage or loss of footrest / footplate alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed. *(Include a full list of past equipment damage and/or client injuries).*

or

b. For the client who does not have a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury, but has the potential for both:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen and extend** at the knee in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb client forces which could lead to client injury and/or equipment breakage or loss of footrest / footplate

alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed.

2. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to absorb extensor tone:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen and extend** at the knee in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb forces resulting from active client extension. By absorbing and diffusing these forces, extensor tone may be decreased. Reducing extensor tone may increase function, sitting tolerance, and conserve energy. Active range of motion at the knee is also provided, reducing risk and progression of range of motion losses.

3. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to provide movement:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen and extend** at the knee in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to allow movement of the client for the goals of providing vestibular input, increasing alertness, decreasing agitation, increasing sitting tolerance, and increasing function. *(Please only list those goals relevant to an individual client).*

4. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to increase lower extremity strength:

Dynamic Footrests **lengthen and extend** at the knee in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to allow movement of the client against resistance for the goal of increasing lower extremity strength.

Dynamic Footrests – telescoping feature, knee extension option, and plantar / dorsi flexion option

1. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to prevent equipment breakage and/or client injury:

a. For the client with a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury:

Dynamic Footrests lengthen, as well as extend at the knee **and ankle**, in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb client forces which have led to client injury and/or equipment breakage in the past and to reduce risk of future breakage or loss of footrest / footplate alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair

and/or seating system until repairs are completed. *(Include a full list of past equipment damage and/or client injuries).*

or

b. For the client who does not have a history of injury and/or equipment breakage, but has the potential for both:

Dynamic Footrests lengthen, as well as extend at the knee **and ankle**, in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb client forces to reduce risk of client injury and/or equipment breakage or loss of footrest / footplate alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed.

2. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to absorb extensor tone:

Dynamic Footrests lengthen, as well as extend at the knee **and ankle**, in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to absorb forces resulting from active client extension. By absorbing and diffusing these forces, extensor tone may be decreased. Reducing extensor tone may increase function, sitting tolerance, and conserve energy. Active range of motion at the knee and ankle is also provided, reducing risk and progression of range of motion losses.

3. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to provide movement:

Dynamic Footrests lengthen, as well as extend at the knee **and ankle**, in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to allow movement of the client for the goals of providing vestibular input, increasing alertness, decreasing agitation, increasing sitting tolerance, and increasing function. *(Please only list those goals relevant to an individual client).*

4. For a client who requires Dynamic Footrests to increase lower extremity strength:

Dynamic Footrests lengthen, as well as extend at the knee **and ankle**, in response to client forces and then return to a starting position. Dynamic Footrests are recommended to allow movement of the client against resistance for the goal of increasing lower extremity strength.

Lateral Knee Pads

Lateral Knee Pads are available for any Dynamic Footrest with knee elevation. These pads are Indicated for a client who would otherwise contact the metal surfaces of the Dynamic Footrest with the lateral knee and/or lower leg.

The Lateral Knee Pad is used with the Dynamic Footrest to reduce risk of lateral knee and lower leg contact with the metal surfaces of the Dynamic Footrests (which could lead to pressure or injury) and keeps the lower extremity in alignment with the pelvis, limiting excessive hip abduction.

One-Piece Footboard

Manual and Power Wheelchairs include footrest hangers with footplates as a standard option. The footrest hangers typically swing-away and the footplates flip-up to move out of the way for transfers. There are times when standard footplates do not meet the needs of an individual client and a footboard is required instead. The Seating Dynamics Footboard can be used on numerous wheelchairs and flips-up to accommodate transfers. The One-Piece Footboard is available for any Seating Dynamics Static or Dynamic Footrest. The One-Piece Footboard only flips-up on the Static Footrest, at this time.

Depending on available range of motion or contractures of the knee and ankle joints, a client's foot position may not align with a standard foot plate position. A footboard provides a wider surface to accommodate unique foot placements. Other Seating Dynamics hardware can also be used to accommodate these needs.

The Seating Dynamics One-Piece Footboard is being recommended to accommodate the feet in an atypical location that cannot be supported by standard footplates.

or

Sometimes standard footplates chronically sag down medially, leading to foot pronation. The One-Piece footboard can be used to prevent this.

The Seating Dynamics One-Piece Footboard is being recommended to prevent medial sagging of the current footplates which is leading to ankle pronation.

Static Footrests

While manual and power wheelchairs are available with a variety of footrests, standard footrests do not meet the need of everyone. Footrest placement is sometimes limited by client range of motion loss and orthopedic asymmetries, particularly when the hamstrings are very tight. If range of motion limitations or orthopedic asymmetries prevent the client's foot from being in alignment with a standard footrest and footplate, our static footrests can accommodate a variety of positional needs.

Seating Dynamics Static Footrests are being recommended to accommodate the feet in an atypical location that cannot be supported by standard footrests.

Dynamic Head Support Hardware

Dynamic Head Support Hardware is available in two versions: Single Axis (which moves posteriorly) and Multi-Axis (which moves posteriorly and laterally to capture rotation). Also available is a Sub-occipital Pad Adaptor and Lateral Component Hardware. Justification wording for each is found below.

When ordering the Dynamic Head Support Hardware, the head pads must be ordered separately from another manufacturer. Our hardware is compatible with nearly all head pads (please refer to our Compatibility Matrix). This includes posterior, suboccipital, and lateral head pads. These items will be justified separately in your documentation.

Single Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware

1. For a client who requires Dynamic Head Support Hardware to prevent client injury and/or equipment breakage:

a. For the client with a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury:

The Single Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware moves **posteriorly** in response to client forces and then returns to a starting position. The Dynamic Head Support Hardware is recommended to absorb client forces which have led to client injury or equipment breakage in the past and to reduce risk of future injury, breakage or loss of head support alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed. *(Include a full list of past equipment damage and/or client injuries).*

Absorbing these forces may also protect the brain and cervical area from injury from sudden, forceful, and/or repeated impacts, as well as sustained forces. By absorbing forces and providing limited movement, the client may be less likely to come off the head pad, which may lead to the client being caught under the head pad and/or choking.

or

b. For the client who does not have a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury, but has the potential for both:

The Single Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware moves **posteriorly** in response to client forces and then returns to a starting position. The Dynamic Head Support Hardware is recommended to absorb client forces which could lead to client injury and/or equipment breakage or loss of head support alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury and breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the

client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed.

Absorbing these forces may also protect the brain and cervical area from injury from sudden, forceful, and/or repeated impacts, as well as sustained forces. By absorbing forces and providing limited movement, the client may be less likely to come off the head pad, which may lead to the client being caught under the head pad and/or choking.

2. For a client who requires Dynamic Head Support Hardware to absorb extensor tone and/or prevent client injury:

The Single Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware moves **posteriorly** in response to client forces and then returns to a starting position. Dynamic Head Support Hardware is recommended to absorb forces resulting from active client extension. By absorbing and diffusing these forces, extensor tone may be decreased. Reducing extensor tone may increase function, sitting tolerance, and conserve energy.

Absorbing these forces may also protect the brain and cervical area from injury from sudden, forceful, and/or repeated impacts, as well as sustained forces. By absorbing forces and providing limited movement, the client may be less likely to come off the head pad, which may lead to injury to the client including but not limited to the client being caught under the head pad and/or choking.

Multi Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware

1. For a client who requires Dynamic Head Support Hardware to prevent equipment breakage and/or client injury:

a. For the client with a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury:

The Multi Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware moves **posteriorly and laterally** (capturing rotational movements) in response to client forces and then returns to a starting position. The Dynamic Head Support Hardware is recommended to absorb client forces which have led to client injury and/or equipment breakage in the past and to reduce risk of future client injury, equipment breakage or loss of head support alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed. *(Include a full list of past equipment damage and/or client injuries).*

Absorbing these forces may also protect the brain and cervical area from injury from sudden, forceful, and/or repeated impacts, as well as sustained forces. By absorbing forces and providing limited movement, the client may be less likely to come off the head pad, which may lead to injury to the client including but not limited to the client being caught under the head pad and/or choking.

or

b. For the client who does not have a history of equipment breakage and/or client injury, but has the potential to break equipment:

The Multi Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware moves **posteriorly and laterally** (capturing rotational movements) in response to client forces and then returns to a starting position. The Dynamic Head Support Hardware is recommended to absorb client forces which could lead to injury, equipment breakage or loss of head support alignment. The dynamic components absorb these excessive forces, reducing risk of client injury, breakage of the wheelchair frame, seating system, and hardware, as well as loss of alignment. Breakage may result in the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed.

Absorbing these forces may also protect the brain and cervical area from injury from sudden, forceful, and/or repeated impacts, as well as sustained forces. By absorbing forces and providing limited movement, the client may be less likely to come off the head pad, which may lead to injury to the client including but not limited to the client being caught under the head pad and/or choking.

2. For a client who requires Dynamic Head Support Hardware to absorb extensor tone and/or prevent client injury:

The Multi Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware moves **posteriorly and laterally** (capturing rotational movements) in response to client forces and then returns to a starting position. Dynamic Head Support Hardware is recommended to absorb forces resulting from active client extension. By absorbing and diffusing these forces, extensor tone may be decreased. Reducing extensor tone may increase function, sitting tolerance, and conserve energy.

Absorbing these forces may also protect the brain and cervical area from injury from sudden, forceful, and/or repeated impacts, as well as sustained forces. By absorbing forces and providing limited movement, the client may be less likely to come off the head pad, which may lead to injury to the client including but not limited to the client being caught under the head pad and/or choking.

Sub-Occipital Pad Adaptor

The Sub-Occipital Pad Adaptor is used when both a posterior head pad and a sub-occipital pad are recommended. The adaptor does not include head pads.

This wording may be used in conjunction with appropriate wording for the Single or Multi-Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware or Static Head Support Hardware.

1. For a client who requires a Sub-Occipital Pad Adaptor to support a sub-occipital pad for postural alignment.

A sub-occipital pad provides support at the posterior base of the skull at the sub-occipital shelf. This level of support is used to provide some actual weightbearing of the skull for postural

support, to limit neck hyperextension, and to promote a midline position. This hardware is required to support a sub-occipital pad on the Dynamic *(or Static)* Head Support Hardware.

Lateral Component Hardware

The Lateral Component Hardware is used when a lateral pad or a switch mount by the side of the head is recommended. A separate lateral head pad is required.

This wording may be used in conjunction with appropriate wording for the Single or Multi-Axis Dynamic Head Support Hardware or Static Head Support Hardware.

1. For a client who requires Lateral Component Hardware for postural alignment:

The Lateral Component Hardware attaches to the Dynamic *(or Static)* Head Support Hardware and provides lateral support to the head to limit neck rotation and lateral flexion, encouraging a midline position for improved visual regard, breathing, and swallowing.

2. For a client who requires Lateral Component Hardware for switch mounting:

The Lateral Component Hardware attaches to the Dynamic *(or Static)* Head Support Hardware and provides mounting for a switch by the side of the head for access to an assistive technology device (*specify device, such as a speech generating device).*

Spreader Bar Mount

Head Supports are typically mounted using a bracket attached to the back of the seating system. This is not always possible, dependent on the type of back being used. By attaching to the back canes, the head support can be mounted in a precise location to match the client's needs. The Spreader Bar Mount can be used with both Seating Dynamics Dynamic and Static Head Support Hardware.

The Seating Dynamics Spreader Bar Mount is being recommended to mount a head support on the mobility base as (the client has a sling back and standard mounting hardware cannot be used) (the client is using a back that cannot support standard mounting hardware without risk of breakage) (the client needs to transfer the seating system between mobility bases). *(please choose the applicable application).*

Static Head Support Hardware

The Static Head Support Hardware is designed to replace standard hardware with highly adjustable and durable hardware that maintains position. When ordering the Static Head Support Hardware, the head pads must be ordered separately from another manufacturer. Our hardware is compatible with nearly all head pads (please refer to our Compatibility Matrix). This includes posterior, suboccipital, and lateral head pads. These items will be justified separately in your documentation.

Seating Dynamics Static Head Support Hardware is being recommended to match the specific head positioning requirements of the client. Other hardware has not retained its position or has broken multiple times *(choose one or both, as applicable)*, leading to a loss of head support and/or alignment or the ability to use the wheelchair. Breakage may result in injury to the client from contact with damaged or broken wheelchair components and or the client being unable to use their wheelchair and/or seating system until repairs are completed. This hardware is designed to be more robust and to maintain position once adjusted. *(Include a full list of past equipment damage).*

About the Author

Michelle Lange is an occupational therapist with 30 years of experience and has been in private practice, Access to Independence, for over 10 years. She is a well-respected lecturer, both nationally and internationally and has authored numerous texts, chapters, and articles. She is the co-editor of Seating and Wheeled Mobility: a clinical resource guide, editor of Fundamentals in Assistive Technology, 4th ed., NRRTS Continuing Education Curriculum Coordinator and Clinical Editor of Directions magazine. Michelle is a RESNA Fellow and member of the Clinician Task Force. Michelle is a certified ATP, certified SMS and is a Senior Disability Analyst of the ABDA.