



# Splashy Big

## Sample Letter of Medical Necessity

Portable Bathing &  
Therapy Activity System



Every child is unique, and every child is assessed individually to see which products are required to meet their specific individual needs. Health care providers will make the ultimate decision on which products are appropriate for an individual, based on their clinical judgement, and the funding applications will take these individual requirements into account. Firefly cannot guarantee the success in obtaining insurance funding.



## Sample Letter of Medical Necessity

**\*Please note – for sections highlighted in blue, please replace with details specific to the child’s presentation and clinical need. The text provided is for example purposes only.\***

### **Introduce yourself, highlight your relationship with the client and describe the product for which you are seeking funding.**

As Jane Doe’s therapist, I am requesting insurance funding for a Splashy Big. This DME device has been prescribed by Jane’s physician and is a medical necessity which would not be used in the absence of disability, illness or injury. It is essential for performing Motor Related Activities of Daily Living (MRADL) such as showering and bathing which, as well as relaxing stiff joints and increasing range of movement, are essential for health and personal hygiene. The following explains this medical justification

### **Explain the child’s diagnosis and disability.** *(Include ability to stand, sit, walk or transfer, and limitations in control of trunk, head or limbs resulting from the condition, diagnosis or injury.)*

Jane is a X year old boy/girl, diagnosed with XX. She has difficulty standing, walking and sitting independently, and needs additional trunk support in most activities of daily living (ADL). She also has limited head control and reduced control of her upper and lower limbs. Due to these medical difficulties, Jane requires assistance from an adult: to get into and out of the bath/shower, postural support while in the bath and assistance to perform personal hygiene.

Continence: Jane is doubly incontinent and this combined with extended periods of sitting means that her skin is at risk of breakdown.

Sensory and Comms: She has poor proprioception and sensory integration disorder and presents with reduced cognition. She is non-verbal with greatly delayed communication and social skills. Range of Movement: Janes has bilateral hip flexion contractures of 10 degrees and knee flexion contractures of 15 degrees. Her legs windsweep to the right and she has a flexible scoliosis convex to the left.

Equipment and transfers: Jane has a standing frame and seating system with lateral supports at school and a wheelchair for mobility.

### **Discuss the impact of the child’s diagnosis on their life. What will the implications be without Splashy Big?** *(Include how the child is currently washed and why any current equipment no longer meets their needs.)*

Jane requires postural support for all activities throughout the day, including for hygiene. If her trunk is not supported in midline, her head, shoulder girdle and trunk will lean to the side reducing her ability to communicate and impairing the functional use of her arms and hands. Currently, Jane is given a ‘bed bath’ using a basin of water and cloth while lying on the bed.



This involves leaning over Jane which puts strain on the caregivers. This regime is more appropriate for a younger child and does not give Jane the dignity or self-worth that bathing provides. This lack of functional independence will have a psychological impact as Jane gets older.

On the rare occasions that Jane is bathed she requires two people for support. Without support, Jane feels unstable which increases her dystonic movements making it harder to hold her safely. She is prone to knocking against the bath and vocalises her discomfort. As a result, bath times are rare and rushed. There is no time for aquatic therapy in a warm relaxing environment to help maintain range of movement, develop motor skills or take advantage of the new sensory experience.

### **Describe the device requirements and safety factors for children with complex needs.**

Children with complex postural and sensory needs require suitable head, trunk, hip and leg support to maintain symmetry and manage abnormal tone. This must be adjustable as the child grows. A variable recline is required to allow the child to relax and support their head and trunk during bathing. Safety is paramount, and therefore the system should prevent the child from sliding forward or falling backwards whilst bathing or showering.

The bathing system should be made with material which does not irritate the child's skin and contoured so that it is comfortable for the child. The seat must also accommodate the flow of water to ensure that the child can be easily cleaned and should itself be easily cleaned.

### **Describe the equipment and accessories being requested. (Include details on adjustments for growth.)**

The Splashy Big is a supportive bathing seat which is designed primarily to enable children with disabilities or an injury to sit independently and attend to personal care. It can also be used for other activities such as messy play, at the beach, in the garden or with a paddling pool – activities which would otherwise be impossible. It is designed and manufactured as durable medical equipment (DME) and is a registered medical device.

- Splashy Big is adjustable in size to accommodate children aged approximately 8-16 years up to 121lbs. It suits many children up to adulthood.
- It is contoured around the trunk and thighs to support Jane in midline. It also has a large inbuilt ramp which prevents her from sliding forward. A supportive position helps reduce muscle tone and promote relaxation.
- It has adjustable bumpers which can be positioned to provide additional support at the head, trunk or just in front of the bottom. These can be re-positioned as Jane grows.
- Splashy Big has a padded 5-point harness to keep Jane securely centred in the seat. The shoulder straps can be removed for ease of cleaning, or to enable Jane to have reach and play. They can be removed as she develops improved motor control.
- Splashy Big sits low in the bath. This enables Jane to get all the relaxing benefits of warm water therapy.
- The backrest reclines through a wide range to accommodate days when head and

trunk control are poor or to enable a lower position in the bath to be achieved. This can be done with one hand to get the ideal position for each bath.

- There are multiple water flow holes to make drainage and product cleaning easy.
- Uniquely, Splashy Big is made with soft ‘warm touch’ EVA foam material. This improves pressure distribution for her fragile skin and increase the length of time she is able to sit comfortably. It also increases sensory feedback to reduce anxiety and muscle tone.
- Being light-weight and portable, it is easy to transport Splashy Big outside the home to the beach, relative’s house or on holiday.
- As a latex free product, the Splashy Big will keep her safe and comfortable throughout the lifetime of the product.

**Describe the Firefly Splashy Big components being requested.** (Delete components as appropriate.)

The Splashy Big meets all of Jane’s hygiene needs while providing a supportive seat for water-based activities. I am requesting funding for Splashy Big, with the following features.

Item	Description of Medical Necessity
<p><b>5-point Harness</b></p> 	<p>The padded harness provides anterior and lateral support to maintain the child centrally in the seat. Splashy Big harness adapts to your child’s postural support needs, with the option of a 5-point or the 3-point pelvic support. This also makes cleaning much easier.</p>
<p><b>Bumper Supports</b></p> 	<p>The 4 x detachable ‘bumper’ supports can be used anywhere on the seat where support is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the head in midline</li> <li>• To keep the trunk stable and upright</li> <li>• As a ‘shelf’ to prevent forward sliding</li> <li>• As a pommel to maintain space between the legs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Floorsitter</b></p> 	<p>The floorsitter base sits low in a bath to get all the benefits of warm water therapy.</p> <p>It has 26 recline options, from upright at 106 degrees to a fully reclined at 140 degrees and is easily adjusted when in or out of the bath. This allows Jane to be upright for activities or low to relax in the water. It is also useful to recline back when she gets tired or on days when head or trunk control is poorer.</p>

### Stabiliser



The Splashy Big stabiliser feature provides additional lateral stability, for larger children or those who may have uncontrolled movements when used outside of the bath.

### Describe psychological benefits

A systematic review of the impact of assistive technology on the family and caregivers of children with a physical disability indicated that it has a positive impact on both the children and their caregivers. Nicolson et al (2012). Developing self-care skills will be positive for Jane's self-esteem. The portability will ensure that routines can be established which will be continued on vacation or at relatives. It will enable her to join her peers at activities in the garden, beach and pool. High self-esteem is associated with increased emotional, behavioural and educational achievement.

**Discuss the cost of alternative products, reiterating the benefits of the Splashy Big.** (Describe how other potential therapy methods/equipment which have been considered are not adequate. Include specific details e.g. the make and model of less expensive items and the reasons they have been rejected.)

Without this device Jane will not receive regular baths making personal care very difficult. She could become prone to skin breakdown and is at increased risk of UTIs. This will result in high associated medical and pharmaceutical costs.

Alternative bathing products do not offer the same level of recline. They are also higher up in the bath and thus out of the warm water. Lastly, they do not offer the enhanced support and comfort which the unique soft contoured EVA foam on the Splashy provides.

### Summary/conclusion.

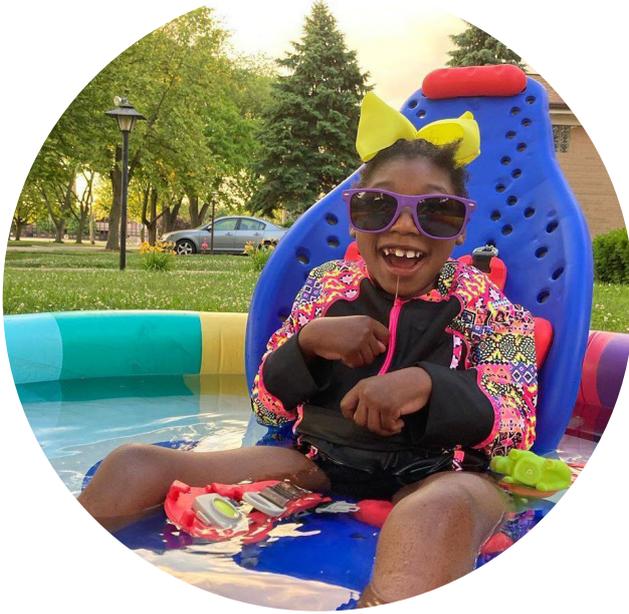
Bathing should be an enjoyable experience allowing tight and stiff muscles to relax while hygiene can be attended to. Unfortunately for Jane and her family it is an incredibly difficult and stressful time. Splashy Big is an essential piece of equipment to permit this basic ADL. It will ensure Jane is comfortable and safe, allowing her to develop personal care skills, while the family can easily and safely assist. It is adjustable and easy to clean and will suit Jane from approximately 8-16 years. Having access to a bath everyday will decrease the chance of costly secondary complications. The unique portability of Splashy Big will maximise the product use at the beach or park, eliminating the cost of other equipment.

After examination of all other available products, the Splashy Big best meets all of Jane's needs.

### References

A Nicolson, L Moir & J Millstead, 2012, Impact of assistive technology on family caregivers of children with physical disabilities: a systematic review, Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology, 7:5, 345-349

Include pictures showing the different settings where Splashy Big can be used.



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