



iNRRTS | INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY OF
REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY
SUPPLIERS

Andrea Madsen, ATP

18337 Highway 30 SE

Chatfield, MN 55923

amadsen@nrts.org

Date: March 5, 2025

To: Chairman Klein-Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

RE: Support for SF 974-Health insurance plans, medical assistance and MinnesotaCare coverage of power standing systems for wheelchairs requirement

Dear Chairman Klein,

On behalf of the International Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers (iNRRTS), we respectfully write in support of SF 974— Health insurance plans, medical assistance and MinnesotaCare coverage of power standing systems for wheelchairs requirement.

iNRRTS is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to the support, advancement, and education of professional Suppliers of CRT, which includes medically necessary customized manual and power wheelchairs, seating and positioning systems, and other adaptive equipment critical to a small and fragile population of children and adults with severe physical disabilities such as spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, ALS, multiple sclerosis, and spina bifida. This small subset of products is subject to strict prior authorization. It is individually configured by a team of physicians, clinicians, and appropriately credentialed Suppliers to fit the unique needs of one specific individual. The CRT evaluation, provision, and ongoing support processes are labor intensive, requiring credentialed staff and focused operational infrastructures.

I am writing to formally support coverage for power standing functionality in power wheelchairs for individuals with disabilities. The ability to stand provides numerous



medically necessary benefits, significantly improving overall health and quality of life while reducing long-term healthcare costs.

Power standing wheelchairs allow individuals with mobility impairments to move into a standing position safely, which has been proven to provide substantial medical benefits, including:

- **Improved Circulation and Cardiovascular Health** – Standing promotes blood flow and reduces the risk of deep vein thrombosis, a common and costly complication for individuals with limited mobility.
- **Prevention of Pressure Ulcers** – Prolonged sitting can cause pressure sores, leading to infections, hospitalizations, and expensive treatments. Standing off loads pressure points and significantly lowers this risk.
- **Bone Density Maintenance** – Weight-bearing activity helps prevent osteoporosis, reducing the likelihood of fractures and subsequent costly medical interventions.
- **Enhanced Respiratory and Digestive Function** – An upright position aids lung expansion and improves digestion, reducing complications such as pneumonia and gastrointestinal issues.
- **Reduced Muscle Spasticity and Contractures** – Regular standing helps maintain joint flexibility and muscle function, decreasing the need for and surgical interventions.
- **Greater Independence and Mental Well-Being** – Standing allows individuals to perform daily activities more effectively, improving mental health, social interactions, and overall quality of life, which can reduce the need for mental health treatments.

Beyond these medical advantages, the long-term cost savings to the healthcare system are significant. By preventing costly conditions such as pressure ulcers, fractures, infections, and cardiovascular complications, power standing wheelchairs ultimately reduce hospitalizations, surgeries, and the need for extensive rehabilitative care. Investing in power standing technology now will lead to substantial financial savings over time while ensuring a higher standard of care for individuals with disabilities.



iNRRTS

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY OF
REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY
SUPPLIERS

As an advocate for individuals with mobility impairments, I urge you to recognize the medical necessity and cost-effectiveness of power standing wheelchairs and to update policy coverage accordingly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to provide further information or discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Andrea Madsen, ATP

Executive Director

International Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers (iNRRTS)

amadsen@nrrts.org