

ONLINE OT KIT

# Justification Template: Rise & Recline Chairs

**When justifying seating prescriptions, it's important to personalise your reports to each individual client. Telling their story and painting a picture of how your chosen chair will support their care needs and enhance their quality of life helps to secure funding.**

However, writing the technical aspects of a justification can be time-consuming and repetitive. Use this template to speed things up!

**Copy and paste the relevant justification statements into your report:**

FUNCTIONALITY	JUSTIFICATION
Dual motor action	<p>Two motors allow the backrest and legrest to be adjusted independently. Operated using a four-button handset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required for users who cannot tolerate tilt-in-space – it does not elevate the ankles above the hips.</li> <li>• The chair can be reclined to a virtually flat position. This allows the user to lie down and sleep in their chair if needed.</li> <li>• Suitable for users who are mobile enough to readjust their own sitting position as they recline.</li> <li>• Suitable for users with good cognitive abilities who can safely operate multiple control buttons.</li> <li>• Used for people with chronic back pain or pain elsewhere. They can dictate exactly what angle they want their legs and exactly where they want their back, to minimise their symptoms.</li> </ul>
Single motor tilt-in-space	<p>The seat and backrest tilt together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides pressure relief by redistributing the user's body weight over a larger surface area.</li> <li>• The user can easily reposition themselves throughout the day. This helps to increase comfort and prevent pressure sores.</li> <li>• Aids in preventing the user sliding forward in their chair.</li> <li>• Allows the user to recline comfortably whilst maintaining a stable pelvic position. Pelvic stability promotes good posture.</li> <li>• Allows for high ankle elevation, which is effective for users with circulatory issues or swelling in the legs.</li> <li>• Required for users who cannot reposition themselves – the tilting action prevent shear.</li> <li>• Suitable for users who do not need to lie back flat in their chair.</li> </ul>

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Dual motor tilt in space	<p>The seat and backrest initially tilt together. The user can then open the backrest angle out further if they wish to lie back more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides pressure relief by redistributing the user’s body weight over a larger surface area.</li> <li>• The user can easily reposition themselves throughout the day. This helps to increase comfort and prevent pressure sores.</li> <li>• Helps to prevent the user sliding forward in their chair.</li> <li>• Allows the user to recline comfortably whilst maintaining a stable pelvic position. Pelvic stability promotes good posture.</li> <li>• Allows for high ankle elevation which is effective for users with circulatory issues or swelling in the legs.</li> <li>• The chair can be reclined to a virtually flat position. This allows the user to lie down and sleep in their chair if needed.</li> <li>• The separate back angle can aid swallowing ability for certain conditions.</li> <li>• The separate back angle can aid ventilation for bariatric users as the hip are opened out and excess soft tissue can then shift down away from the lungs.</li> </ul>
Riser action	<p>The chair rises and tilts forward at the same time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists with sit-to-stand movements by reducing the physical effort required. This supports independent standing and reduces the need for assisted transfers.</li> <li>• Effective for users considered at risk of falls when sitting and standing.</li> <li>• Can allow older people to live independently for longer.</li> <li>• Suitable for users with sufficient lower body strength to complete the stand once partly risen.</li> <li>• Can be used as a rehab tool to practice sit to stand at different levels, therefore strengthening the muscles at different angles.</li> </ul>
Vertical Rise	<p>The seat stays flat whilst the whole chair rises upwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists with sit-to-stand movements by reducing the physical effort required. This supports independent standing and reduces the need for assisted transfers.</li> <li>• Effective for users considered at risk of falls when sitting and standing.</li> <li>• Can allow older people to live independently for longer.</li> <li>• Effective for users with significant weakness in their legs. The armrests rise with the seat. This gives the user something to hold on to at the side of their thighs, making it easier to get their balance.</li> <li>• Required for lateral transfers.</li> <li>• Required for users who need to achieve straight legs before they leave the chair. Especially effective for users with muscular dystrophy.</li> </ul>

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Variable Angle Lift (VAL) frame	<p>This allows the angle of the riser action to be adjusted from standard to vertical rise, or a mid-point between the two.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists with sit-to-stand movements by reducing the physical effort required. This supports independent standing and reduces the need for assisted transfers.</li> <li>Effective for users considered at risk of falls when sitting and standing.</li> <li>Can allow older people to live independently for longer.</li> <li>Effective for users with progressive conditions who do not require vertical rise now but likely will in the future.</li> </ul>
Specialised actions	<p>Multi-action chairs are used where user needs a combination of different functions to meet their needs. Usually used for more complex users. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User who is somewhat in plank position in the chair and needs to rise to stand in that position.</li> <li>User that needs to keep their feet on the floor but sit in an increased rake position.</li> <li>User that needs forward tilt and elements of tilt-in-space while being aided to stand e.g. some bariatrics.</li> </ul>
Waterfall back	<p>Backrest made up of three individual cushions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The height and amount of wadding can be adjusted for each cushion. This allows the backrest to be moulded around the user's spine.</li> <li>Particularly effective for users with scoliosis.</li> <li>Lateral supports can be incorporated into the bottom or middle cushion to provide additional pelvic or torso support. They also aid in encouraging a midline position.</li> <li>Top cushion can be altered to provide extra head support.</li> </ul>
Cocoon back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers hip to head lateral support on both sides, therefore aiding midline and spatial orientation.</li> <li>Encourages good postural position.</li> <li>Offers extra comfort.</li> <li>Cocoon design allows the user to feel safe and secure.</li> <li>Offers extra lateral support for users with a tendency to lean.</li> </ul>
Soft flat back	<p>Single backrest cushion filled with foam rather than wadding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides good lumbar support.</li> <li>Encourages correct pelvis position.</li> </ul>
Firm back	<p>Single, supportive backrest cushion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective for users who suffer from back pain – it is more supportive than a soft flat back.</li> </ul>

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Lateral back	<p>Lateral cushions line each side of the backrest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for users with trunk instability – the laterals provide good side support.</li> <li>• Particularly effective for users with scoliosis or kyphosis.</li> </ul>
T back	<p>One soft horizontal pillow at the top of the backrest and two soft vertical pillows situated underneath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vertical pillows can be moulded around the user's spine.</li> <li>• Particularly effective for users with kyphosis.</li> </ul>
Backrest wedge supports	<p>Triangular positioning supports. Available in 3" and 6".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be placed at different levels and angles behind the backrest cushions to offer more lateral support and encourage a more midline position.</li> <li>• Can use more than one wedge if extra support is needed.</li> </ul>
Soft head cushion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers extra support to the neck area. Especially effective if the natural shape of the user's spine has altered.</li> <li>• Offers extra support to the head and neck if muscles to this region are weak.</li> </ul>
Profiled head cushion	<p>U-shaped to fit the head, neck, and shoulders. Inadequate support can also cause the head to drop forward. This can lead to difficulties with communication, breathing, and swallowing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective for users with reduced head control.</li> <li>• Aids in the gradual improvement of lateral flexion of the head back towards midline, by having the option of altering the density of the cushion.</li> </ul>
Dropdown armrests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitates side/lateral transfers.</li> <li>• Personal care can be provided whilst the user is seated.</li> <li>• Application of slings can be made easier.</li> </ul>
Knuckles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be located at the front of each arm for the user to grip.</li> <li>• Aids with sit to stand and stand to sit.</li> </ul>
Arm caps	<p>Used to protect the arms of the chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy to clean and/or replace if damaged e.g. by cigarette smoke or pets.</li> </ul>
Visco memory foam seat wrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very comfortable.</li> <li>• Provides low to medium pressure relief.</li> </ul>
Gel seat wrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides medium to high pressure relief.</li> </ul>

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Drop-in seat	<p>Allows the chair to be used with a full-depth pressure relief cushion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective for users with progressive conditions whose pressure care needs will change over time.</li> <li>• Can provide low to very high pressure relief.</li> <li>• Minimises the surfaces between the user and the cushion to deliver optimal pressure relief.</li> <li>• Alternating air cushion with pump can be used.</li> </ul>
Covered drop-in seat.	<p>Allows the chair to be used with a full-depth pressure relief cushion. Includes an additional Vapour Permeable or Panvelle Stretch fabric layer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective for users with progressive conditions whose pressure care needs will change over time.</li> <li>• Can provide low to very high pressure relief. Very high example is the alternating air cushion and pump.</li> <li>• The extra layer blends the cushion in with the rest of the chair. This maintains the standard look of the chair which can be effective for users who are reluctant to use specialist equipment.</li> </ul>
Vinyl and vapour-permeable materials	<p>Vinyl on the outer areas of the chair and vapour-permeable stretch fabric on different contact areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water resistant to prevent ingress.</li> <li>• Wipeable and easy clean. This is effective for users with incontinence issues.</li> <li>• 4-way stretch to provide pressure relief.</li> <li>• Vinyl is strong and durable to prevent damage to the chair when moved.</li> </ul>
Keylock or detachable handset	<p>Allows the handset to be locked or removed completely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family members or carers can make the chair inoperable. This is effective for users with cognitive or behavioural impairments who are considered at risk of falls or injury when unattended.</li> <li>• Suitable for care homes or similar setting where residents with cognitive impairments may try operate the chair whilst someone is seated in it.</li> </ul>
Handset pocket	<p>Effective for users who will operate the chair independently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pocket is placed on the side of the arm, making it easier for the user to reach the remote.</li> <li>• The user does not lose their good posture by having to lean over and reach down below the arm for the remote.</li> </ul>
Small castors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable if the chair needs to be moved whilst unoccupied.</li> <li>• Small castors are only designed for occasionally moving the chair short distances.</li> </ul>
Lockable wheels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be added to certain riser recliners to make the chair easier to can.</li> <li>• Can help with assisted transfers – allows the chair to be moved to the desired angle. Wheels must be locked before any transfer takes place.</li> </ul>
Glides/Non-slip feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise chair movement during sit to stand and stand to sit.</li> </ul>

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# Justification Example

Here is an example of how you can use these justification statements when writing up a client's report:

Mrs C. is a 67-year-old lady with Parkinson's. She is a house-proud lady and lives with her husband who cares for her full time. Mrs C. mobilises with assistance of her husband and a rollator frame. She has a slight tremor to her upper limbs and can sit for fairly long periods if her husband is out shopping etc. She leans slightly to the left in her chair and occasionally sleeps in the chair.

I would like to put forward the following riser recliner chair as it meets all her needs.

I have prescribed the following given what we know about Mrs C:

- **Dual motor tilt-in-space chair** as:
  1. This will aid sit to stand
  2. Tilt in space will encourage good posture
  3. The extra independent back recline will provide the required comfort and position for when she needs to sleep.
- **Gel seat wrap** as Mrs C. can sit for fairly long periods when her husband is out of the house and it also future proofs the chair if Mrs C.'s condition deteriorates.
- **Wooden knuckles on both arms** as currently Mrs C. will find them beneficial in sit to stand and stand to sit.
- **Waterfall lateral back with laterals to middle cushion.** These laterals will encourage a midline position as she leans slightly in the chair.
- **No castors** as we want the chair to be extra stable on sit to stand and stand to sit.