

# **Equine Magic Therapeutic Services**

## **Rider Eligibility Guidelines**

Although EMTS makes every effort to accommodate every person who applies to ride with our program, it is not always possible due to the limitations of our horses and the facility. We would like you to be aware of the following:

### **AGE**

Participants in the Hippotherapy program must be at least two years of age.

### **WEIGHT LIMIT**

As a guideline, our current weight limit is 200 pounds. Be aware that there are several factors used in determining the appropriateness of an individual to be able to ride in EMTS's program. Therefore, the weight limit is at the discretion of the EMTS staff.

### **PHYSICIANS STATEMENT**

We CAN NOT allow any person to ride without a signed and dated statement and/or Script from a physician stating that it is safe for that person to do so.

### **PRECAUTIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Be aware that there are existing precautions and contraindications to Hippotherapy.

### **BEHAVIOR**

Disruptive, inappropriate or unsafe behaviors, or any condition where the client is dangerous to himself, to others, or to the horse may be considered a contraindication to Hippotherapy. Unsafe behaviors will not be tolerated and the therapy session may be terminated.

### **ATTIRE**

Rider's must wear comfortable pants, no shorts. Closed toed shoes only. Every rider is required to wear a helmet when on the horse. There are no exceptions!

### **EVALUATION**

An EMTS Therapist will evaluate every potential client on a one-on-one basis. If, in the opinion of the therapist it is not advisable for the client to ride, we must regretfully follow their advise.

### **RE-EVALUATION**

Under certain circumstances, a rider's condition may change leading to an unacceptable level of risk. In this case, the rider is asked to withdraw form therapy until the condition is stabilized. Riding may be resumed when written verification from the attending physicians or therapist states that it is safe to do so. In certain situations it may not be advisable for the client to return to riding.

**Thank you for understanding these guidelines. Our goal is to provide the safest program possible that is also challenging and enjoyable for all participants.**

