

Hippotherapy Program Information and Policies

Hippotherapy Program Fees:

- Private, 52-minute session: \$85. (This 52-minute session allows for treatment time with minutes at the end for client discussion/education. Note that depending on therapist's assessment of need and AHA (American Hippotherapy Association) standards, the total time on horseback may range from 20-45 minutes.)
- Clients may qualify for hippotherapy funding through the CES or SLS waiver programs.

Minimum Age

For hippotherapy, the minimum age is three years old.

Please note: hippotherapy is an *episodic* treatment modality used to help clients achieve therapeutic goals. The duration of hippotherapy treatment will depend on goal achievement.

Weight Maximum

Due to safety considerations for staff, participants, volunteers, and horses, we may not be able to accept a client who weighs over 175 pounds.

Assessment

Prior to visiting the ranch for assessment, all clients must have completed the registration forms and physician packet, found on our website <https://www.prtr.org/programs/>.

A client's first visit to the ranch will include a facility tour, a meet and greet with available staff, volunteers, and horses, and an evaluation with a therapist. In this evaluation, the client's abilities and challenges as well as potential goals will be discussed. Prior to being accepted for waiver-funded hippotherapy services, new clients are first directed to an 8-week session of Outpatient Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy or Counseling to assess needs, prepare for hippotherapy and determine goals.

Once in the hippotherapy program, clients will receive 8 weeks of treatment. After 8 weeks of hippotherapy, a re-evaluation will be done, and clients may be referred back to our Outpatient Therapies to generalize skills or work on new goals. If there are other goals to be addressed using the hippotherapy modality, clients may return to the hippotherapy program when their turn comes up again from the waiting list.

Please note: registration forms must be filled out annually and information update forms must be completed for each new session.

Attire and Equipment

All clients must wear ASTM/SEI certified **equestrian** helmets when mounted on horseback. It is also recommended that patients wear these same helmets when working with horses on the ground. If you do not have your own helmet, Promise Ranch can provide a helmet for you.

All clients should wear appropriate, comfortable, clothing that is not too loose fitting. An ideal outfit is made up of long pants and closed-toe shoes with a slight heel. Jewelry is NOT recommended. Since we operate year-round, we also recommended layers, scarves, and gloves for unpredictable or inclement weather.

Attendance and Cancellation Policies

- 1) All sessions are by appointment only.
- 2) If you are running late or unable to attend for any reason, you should contact your therapist directly and with as much notice as possible so we do not have horses, volunteers, and staff waiting.
- 3) A minimum of 24 hours notice is required for absences. If we receive less than 24 hours notice, you may be billed a cancellation fee of \$50, regardless of payer source.
- 4) If you do not show up for a scheduled session and do not provide any notice, the session will be forfeit. If you have two no-show/no-call appointments within an eight-week session, you will lose your spot.
- 5) Clients who arrive more than 15 minutes late to their session may not be able to ride.
- 6) Promise Ranch reserves the right to cancel sessions in the event of unsafe conditions. We may cancel when Douglas County is on accident alert status or when weather or driving conditions have the potential to become dangerous. We will cancel classes in extreme heat (above 95 degrees or when the heat index reaches 130), extreme cold (below 20 degrees), extreme winds, or dangerous thunder and lightning storms. We will make every effort to contact you in a timely manner if a cancelation is deemed necessary. Clients are responsible for supplying us a working, text-capable phone number so that we may contact you urgently.
- 7) As a courtesy to clients, therapists give them their personal phone numbers. As a courtesy to therapists, clients are asked to call or text only during ranch business hours.

Billing Policies (private pay)

- 1) Invoices will be emailed at the end of each month to the email address on file; payment is due upon receipt. If payment is not received within 30 days, sessions will be postponed until payment is received.
- 2) Payment can be made via check or cash and can be given to your therapist. Alternatively, checks can be mailed to Promise Ranch, P.O. Box 545, Franktown, CO 80116.
- 3) If a check is returned due to insufficient funds, you will be responsible for payment of any bank fees incurred by Promise Ranch in addition to the regular invoice payment.
- 4) After two instances of insufficient funds, checks will no longer be an acceptable payment method; money orders or cash must be used in lieu of personal checks.

Discharge Policy:

Promise Ranch strives to provide the safest possible conditions for clients, volunteers, and staff. The acceptance, and continued participation, of an individual in our program depends on the availability of therapists, volunteers, and suitable horses, and is based on our determination that we can safely accommodate the client. Promise Ranch adheres to all precautions and contraindications established by PATH Intl., and we reserve the right to refuse any patients that we cannot safely accommodate. All patients are required to inform us of any and all changes in health status as they occur.

Patients may be discharged from hippotherapy treatment for many different reasons including:

- 1) The treating therapist determines that hippotherapy is no longer the most effective and appropriate treatment strategy for the client
- 2) The treating therapist determines that another specialist or treatment would better serve the client
- 3) The client meets all therapy goals and is ready to progress to Adaptive Riding
- 4) The client exceeds the weight limit that our horses can safely and humanely carry
- 5) The client or caregivers are uncooperative, by not responding to ranch communications, or interfering with lessons
- 6) The client frequently cancels appointments, does not show for appointments, or misses four or more appointments in an 8-week session
- 7) The client does not pay their bill
- 8) The client or caregivers are disruptive or unpleasant to Promise Ranch staff and/or volunteers

Promise Ranch Safety Policies – General

In order for everyone to get the most out of their experience at PRTR, we strive to provide the safest possible conditions before, during, and after your sessions. Please review the following important policies:

- 1) Minors must be supervised at all times. Please do not leave children unattended or allow running, screaming, or loud noises at the barn.
- 2) Family members and other guests should not approach, touch, or feed **any** horses without permission.
- 3) Upon arrival, during a session, and upon leaving, please remain quiet and respectful of sessions in progress.
- 4) Family members and other guests must stay clear of the mounting area during mounting and dismounting procedures, unless assisting.
- 5) Family members and other guests should remain outside of the riding area, unless assisting. Assistance from a caregiver should only happen with therapist instruction.
- 6) Participants should wait for their therapist prior to approaching and beginning work with their horse.

Promise Ranch Facility Policies

1. Ranch Hours are: Monday – Saturday from 9am to 6pm; exceptions are made for late sessions, clinics, or workshops.
2. Please do not ‘visit’ the ranch without permission.
3. Drive slowly (10mph or less) while on Promise Ranch Property.
4. NO SMOKING, no exceptions.
5. NO WEAPONS, no exceptions.
6. Drugs and Alcohol are prohibited; being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on PRTR property will result in client dismissal.
7. ONLY service dogs are allowed; dogs must be on leash and supervised at all times.
8. Clean up after yourself, your children, and your dog. Trash should go in the trash or recycling containers provided.
9. Keep all gates closed at all times.

By signing below, you, as the client or legal representative of the client, agree to follow the rules and regulations outlined herein, pages 1-5 of Hippotherapy Policies.

Signature:

Date:

(Client/Parent/Guardian)

Printed Name:

Text-Capable Phone Number:

Client Name:

Email your signed Hippotherapy Information and Policies form to info@prtr.org or mail it to Promise Ranch, PO Box 545, Franktown, CO 80116.