We Can Ride Client Re-evaluation Procedure

Factors Requiring A Re-evaluation

We Can Ride follows specific safety guidelines to ensure the well-being of our clients, volunteers, and equine partners. Re-evaluations are conducted to assess ongoing client and equine needs, and cover key areas such as weight distribution, trunk control, and behavior/cognitive requirements. Here are some of the reasons why a re-evaluation might be needed:

- Age-related Concerns: As clients age, they may experience physical changes that impact their ability to sit astride a horse or tolerate its movement. Re-evaluations will assess these changes to determine if adjustments or alternative programming are needed.
- Physical Growth: As clients grow, their body conformation and weight changes. This can affect mounting and dismounting procedures. A re-evaluation may be required to determine if safety guidelines are being met.
- Behavioral Changes: If a client exhibits significant changes in behavior, such as increased resistance to riding, reduced enthusiasm, or distracting actions, a re-evaluation will help determine if a break from riding or other adjustments are needed.
- New Medical Conditions or Changes in Medication: Significant changes in a client's medical status or medication that could impact their safety during riding sessions may require a re-evaluation to ensure continued safety.

Client Evaluation Process

We Can Ride evaluates clients through a multi-step process:

1. Instructor and Staff Observations:
    - Instructors continuously monitor clients during each lesson for any signs of safety concerns, behavior changes, or other issues that could affect their ability to participate in the program safely. The Education Manager or Program Director may attend a class to observe clients and assess their progress. This observation helps to identify any emerging concerns or areas that require further evaluation.

2. Therapist Reassessment:
    - If needed, a therapist will conduct a reassessment to evaluate the client. This is a critical step in the re-evaluation process, ensuring that the program remains safe for everyone involved.

3. Hippotherapy:
    - Therapists are constantly assessing hippotherapy clients, as this program involves therapeutic practices. Documentation from these sessions will be shared with clients and their families through Salesforce. Therapist reports will reflect the typical observations and findings expected in a clinical environment.

Therapist Reassessment Process:

- If it is determined that a re-evaluation is needed, it will be scheduled during the clients regular lesson time. Clients and their families will receive prior notice. If a client is scheduled for re-evaluation, they must be present for class. If a client needs to postpone their re-evaluation, participation in class will be on hold until the re-evaluation can take place.

- After the re-evaluation, We Can Ride will discuss the results with the client and their family to determine next steps. If a client does not meet the safety requirements, they may not be able to participate in mounted lessons. Alternative options, such as unmounted lessons, will be considered based on the client's situation. If it is determined that continued participation in mounted lessons poses a safety risk, discharge from the program may be necessary.

- We understand that re-evaluations and their outcomes can be challenging for clients and their families. We Can Ride is here to support you and provide guidance. If you have questions or concerns, you are encouraged to reach out to staff for further information at any time.

Overview of Guidelines

Clients need to continue to meet the requirements outlined in the We Can Ride Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy Guidelines. These guidelines cover requirements for safe mounting, dismounting, trunk control, weight-bearing ability, and behavior. The full list of safety precautions and criteria can be found on our website at wecanride.org. Clients and their families can also access the guidelines on their Salesforce accounts under the "Downloadable Forms" section.