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Dear Physician,

Thank you for completing the referral form for your patient to apply to ride at SARI Therapeutic Riding. Your comments will help our therapists and instructors decide on this patient's suitability for riding and help them provide a better quality individualized program for the patient. Where possible, please be specific with your comments. To ensure we are using accurate information, if the form is filled out by any person other than the physician it will be returned to the applicant.

Please take time to review the list of contraindications and precautions, and consider the ones that may be applicable for your patient. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the SARI office. As well, please review the list of conditions that require cervical spine and/or flexion-extension X-ray. If an X-ray is indicated, please attach a copy of the results of the X-ray report to this referral.

Upon receiving your referral and other documentation from the applicant, he/she will be booked for an assessment by a physical or occupational therapist, as well as the head instructor. This evaluation will assess the rider's abilities on and off the horse and determine the appropriateness of the riding program. The assessment will also determine special requirements and adaptations needed for riding. The rider may be reassessed should it be warranted.

Horseback riding is considered a risk sport; therefore the highest standards of safety and therapeutic riding instruction, as per the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association and the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, are maintained.

SARI offers three sessions per year and classes run weekly for 30-60 minutes, depending on the size and ability of the class participants. Depending on the level of the ability of rider, he/she may have a volunteer lead the horse and may have one or two volunteers walk beside the horse to provide support. The majority of classes are walk-trot or walk only.

Thank you again for completing the referral form. If you have any questions about your patient's participation in the program or have other questions about SARI and therapeutic horseback riding in general please do not hesitate to call the office at 519-666-1123.

Sincerely,

Diane Blackall
Executive Director

