

# Hospital Based PT/OT/ST Utilizing Equine Movement as a Treatment Tool



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# Learning Objectives

How, where and why to start incorporating equine movement (hippotherapy) through a Hospital System

- ▶ Understand the step by step process to start hospital affiliated treatment using equine movement (hippotherapy)
- ▶ Understand how to begin by approaching needed systems within your hospital for success
- ▶ Understand insurance and liability needs and options available
- ▶ Understand the options for leasing facility and horses
- ▶ Understand how to work with barn owners on horse selection and training as it relates to the needs of incorporating equine movement as a treatment tool (hippotherapy) within the scope of a hospital setting



# Bon Secours Mercy Health by the numbers

ONE OF THE 5 LARGEST  
Catholic health care systems in the US;  
the LARGEST not-for-profit private provider in Ireland



MORE THAN **1,200** SITES OF CARE  IN THE US  
AND IRELAND



Approximately **\$10 BILLION**  
in pro forma net operating revenue

MORE THAN **\$2 MILLION** A DAY  
IN COMMUNITY BENEFITS

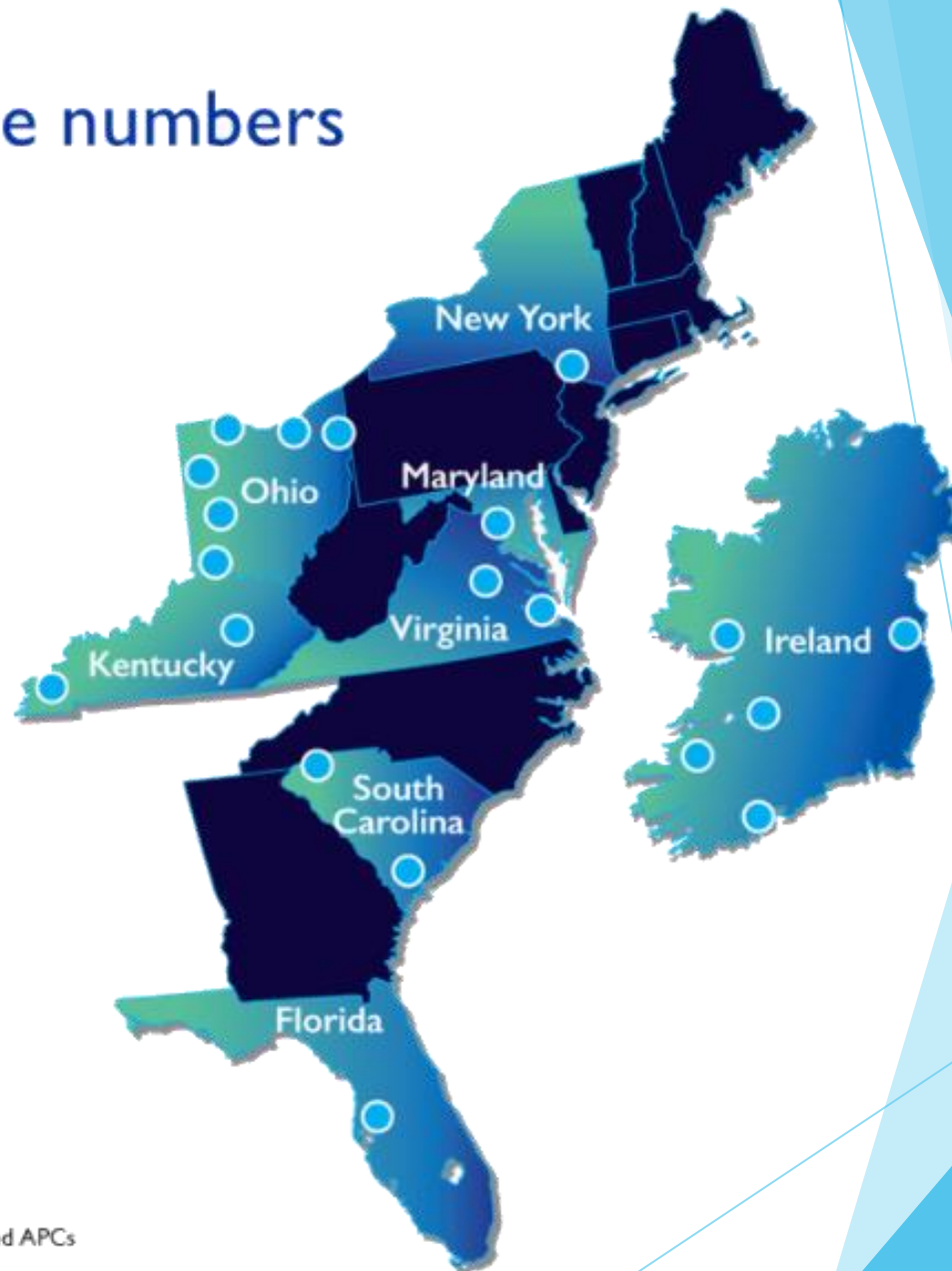


**50** HOSPITALS

**3,000\*** PROVIDERS IN THE US  
**450** CONSULTANTS IN IRELAND  
**60,000** TOTAL ASSOCIATES



\*BSMH Medical Group physicians and APCs



# GETTING STARTED

## YOUR TEAM

- ▶ Co-workers
- ▶ Manager

## HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Risk Management
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ Volunteer Services
- ▶ Clinical Supports

# BUILDING YOUR TEAM

## Co-workers and Management

Identify co-workers with horse experience



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graph TD; A[Identify co-workers with horse experience] --> B[Specialized training requirements: Hippotherapy Treatment Principles, Part I & II]; B --> C[Management Engagement & Buy-In: Open to new, innovative services. Connected, respected and influential in the hospital system?]
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Specialized training requirements:  
Hippotherapy Treatment Principles, Part I & II

Management Engagement & Buy-In  
Open to new, innovative services. Connected,  
respected and influential in the hospital system?

# BUILDING YOUR TEAM

## Hospital Systems Funding Source

### Hospital Foundation:

#### ▶ Key to success

- ▶ Is there a Foundation Board that you can present a proposal?



### ▶ Highlight:

- ✓ Describe hippotherapy
- ✓ Effectiveness
- ✓ Funding needs, budget
- ✓ Referrals, Innovation, Collaboration
- ✓ Patient/family popularity
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Plan





# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Hospital Foundation

Initial allocation request \$26,000

Cover additional costs not covered by medical insurance:

- ▶ Liability insurance
- ▶ Lease fees for horse and facility
- ▶ Equipment
- ▶ Education



# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Budget for First Year

- ▶ Lease Fees ▶ \$20,000
- ▶ Insurance ▶ \$2200
- ▶ Education ▶ \$2000
- ▶ Equipment/Supplies ▶ \$1800

## Budget Growth

Year	Fee	Treatment Sessions/yr
2008	\$25,045	835
2010	\$23,610	724
2012	\$25,710	854
2014	\$31,275	1043
2016	\$35,915	1172
2018	\$42,900	1430
2019	\$44,220	1340



**Children's  
Miracle Network  
Hospitals®**



# Funding Source

## Children's Miracle Network

Raises funds for 170 member hospitals in US and Canada

Key to securing adequate financial support and longevity

Fund-raising campaign

## Other Funding Sources

Grants

# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Risk Management



Liability Insurance



Commercial General Liability



Umbrella/Excess Liability Insurance



Excess Accident and Medical policy



Professional Liability Insurance



# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Risk Management



Photo Release – Patients & Volunteers



Facility Contract with Hospital



Authorization for Emergency  
Medical Treatment



All forms except emergency medical form  
are kept in patient chart



Medical Participant  
Release



Alternative  
Helmet Waiver



Liability Release



Misc Forms

# FACILITY CONTRACTS

 Facility Responsibilities

 Hospital Responsibilities

 Duration

 Insurance

# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Facility Responsibilities



### Basic equipment & supplies:

- Lead ropes
- Halters
- Grooming Tools



EQUIPMENT



### Horse Profiles:

- Evaluation of Horse
- Inform of Changes



PROFILES



### Sufficient horse number, care, and welfare:

- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Vaccines/Vet Care
- Maintaining health records
- Equine first aid kit



CARE



### Indoor Arena:

- Size
- Maintenance
- Exclusive Use



ARENA

# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Hospital Responsibilities



# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS Insurance & Duration

## Insurance

- Commercial GL for \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- \$3,000,000 annual aggregate
- Each party 30 day notice of change cancel

## Duration

- 1 year contract
- Auto-renewed annually
- 30 day written notice for termination from either party





# MARKETING



Brochures, volunteer flyers,  
website- hospital and facility



Press, media - local news channels,  
local papers, city and community



PT, OT and ST in the area - other hospital  
systems, pediatric private practice



Educate/notify physicians-  
referring physicians

# GET STARTED

## Volunteer Services



- ▶ Hospital Volunteer Dept. requirements
- ▶ Volunteer training at the facility
- ▶ Volunteer recruitment
- ▶ Volunteer Manual

# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Volunteer Manual Chapters

Dependability, Absence  
Confidentiality

1

Attire Policy  
Inclement Weather Policy

2

Arrival Procedures  
Safety Guidelines

3

Grooming  
Tacking

4



5

Horseleader  
Sidewalker

6

Mounting and Dismounting  
Emergency Procedures

7

Emergency Dismount  
Emergency Evacuation

8

Disability Definitions  
Therapist Contact Info

# GET STARTED

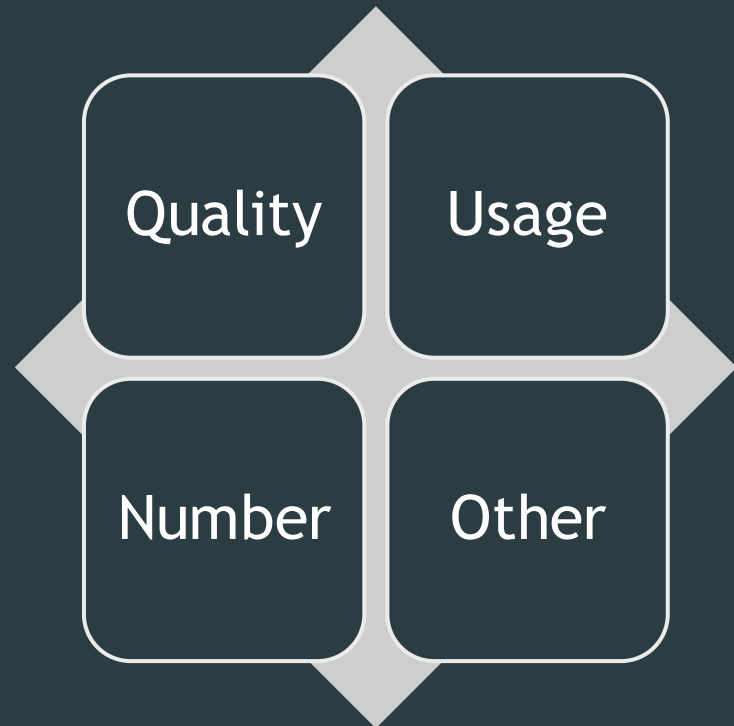
## Location Considerations

### Facility

- Indoor arena- in
- Industry standard min 60 x 100 ft.
- Exclusive use
- Stall size- at least 10 x 10 ft
- Adequate turn out for horses
- Accessibility-patients and location
- Treatment Space / storage space
- Mounting system
- Climate control
- Access to horses on therapy days
- Leasing options-private residence, existing AR program



# Horses



# EQUINE CONSIDERATIONS

## Horse Selection



**Temperament**



**Movement Quality**

Symmetry,  
Suppleness, Straightness,  
Self Carriage, Rhythm



**Soundness**



**Gait**



**Breeds**

Influence  
conformation/personality  
POA, Haflingers, Quarter  
Horse, Fjords



**Conformation**

# EQUINE CONSIDERATIONS

## Therapist Responsibility



**Evaluation:** Selection of new horse coming in or initial eval of existing horse



**Expertise:** Safe and effective treatment



**Basic knowledge:**

- Behavior: body language, stress
- Conformation
- Movement analysis
- Sit astride bareback to assess gait/pelvic mvt.



# EQUINE CONSIDERATIONS

## Horse Evaluation

### Temperament/Soundness

- ▶ Release/catch in arena
- ▶ Walk on lead, observe willing to move forward, ears/body- stop, turn left, turn right
- ▶ Disengage hind-quarters
- ▶ Rubbing head, ears, back, legs- fear/discomfort
- ▶ Check legs for swelling, scars, nose/discharge, teeth/gums, eyes clear
- ▶ Watch horse walk on lead for lameness, view from back, side and front- hip/leg conformation, tracking up
- ▶ Movement produced astride
- ▶ Reaction to toys-noises, balls





# EQUINE CONSIDERATIONS

## Therapy Horse Training

### Desensitization

- Sidewalker
- Mounting block/ramp
- Alternate positions
- Activities/toys (balls, bubbles, bean bags)
- Sounds of toys/noises of pt, erratic pt. mvt., unbalanced
- Pt equipment- walkers, WC





# EQUINE CONSIDERATIONS

## Horse Desensitization Progression

### MOCK SESSIONS INCLUDE

- Mounting system
- 1 side walker
- 2 side walkers
- Toys/therapy activities
- Non-patient rider- mount/dismount, thigh/ankle hold, reach out of BOS, horse contact, alternate positions, off center, leg squeeze

# EQUINE CONSIDERATIONS

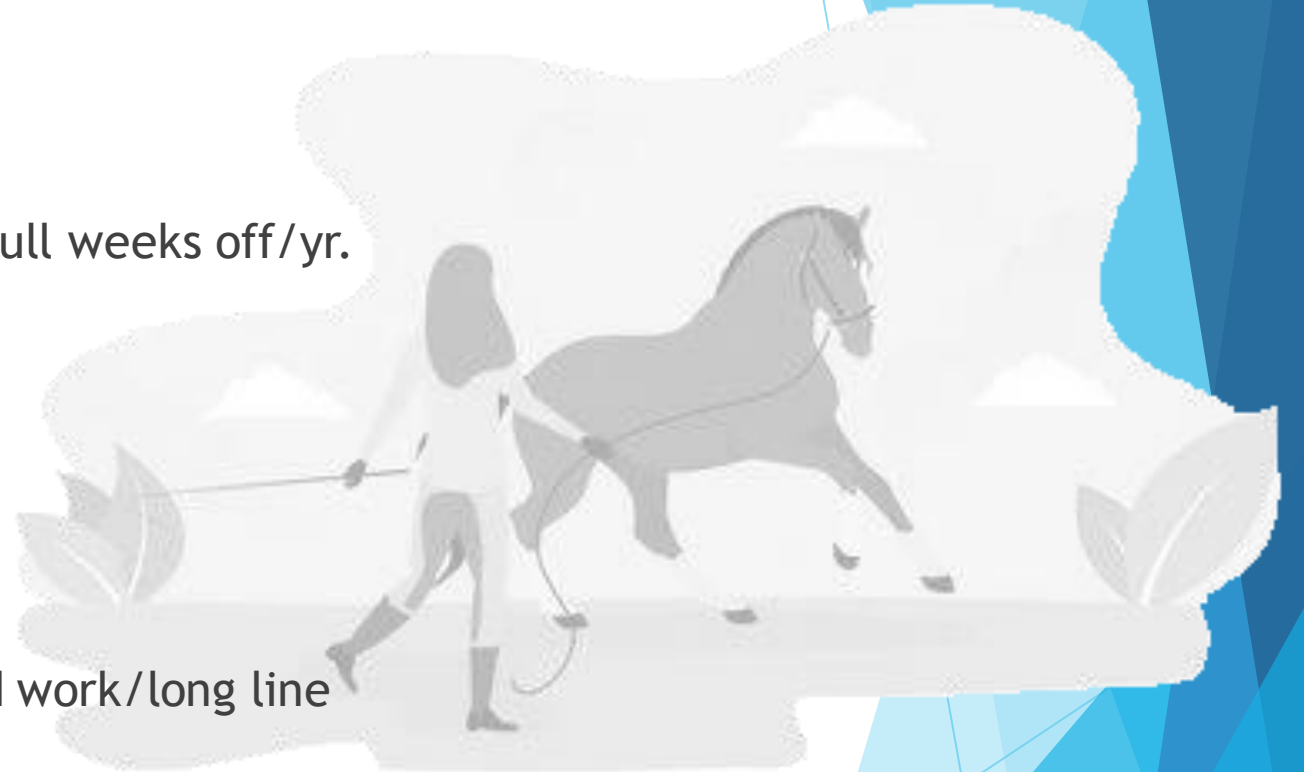
## Horse Training

### ▶ PATH Equine Welfare Standards

- ▶ Turn out daily: min of 2 hrs./day, min 4 full weeks off/yr.
- ▶ Work 5 days/off 2 days
- ▶ Max - 3 sessions/day, 2 sessions in a row

### ▶ Exercise and Training

- ▶ 2x week under saddle, 3x /wk. in ground work/long line
- ▶ Walk/trot/canter- dressage principles
- ▶ Mounting/dismounting using mounting system
- ▶ Grooming daily/stable routine
- ▶ **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?**



# HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

## Clinical Supports

### REFERRALS

In-house from clinical staff, other area hospitals, private practice, EI, facility websites, family/patient inquiry



### INSURANCE

Office staff verify insurance coverage



### WAITLIST

Avail for all clinic staff to access and input referrals



### EVALUATIONS

Done at our clinic, same procedures as all new pt/eval-standardized testing, pt health questionnaire, obj measures



### BILLING

Submit daily charge sheets to office managers inc name, date, time, proc code, units, facility by email



### REIMBURSEMENT

Hospital systems represents JCAHO/OSHA standards, trust



### DOCUMENTATION

EMR/Epic- Ad access to other hospital/MD pt records – clinical verbiage



### SCHEDULING

We do own scheduling but in EMR system, hpot barn schedule on google sheets for volunteers



### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Laptop, hot spot, IT support, Volgistics laptop



# Why get started

## VALUE



Referral Source

Employment benefits

Secure funding

Hospital Responsibilities

Reimbursement

Community Reputation

Legal Team

## CHALLENGES

Hospital bureaucracy

Permission requirements

Slow decision making

Volunteer orientation

Strong communication required

Productivity requirements

Paid horse professional issue

# Questions?

Contact Info:  
[oakwoods10@gmail.com](mailto:oakwoods10@gmail.com)  
419-509-7318



# REFERENCES

- ▶ Hippotherapy Treatment Principles- Level One, An American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. approved course, workshop manual, 1<sup>st</sup> edition.
- ▶ Hippotherapy Treatment Principles- Level Two, An American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. approved course, workshop manual, 1<sup>st</sup> edition.
- ▶ Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist Review Manual, Compiled by Susie Rehr, PT, HPCS. Contributions by Bonnie Cunningham MSPT, HPCS, Jane Burrows PT, DPT, HPCS.
- ▶ Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Standards for Certification and Accreditation, 2021 Edition.
- ▶ DeTurk Peloso, D (2020), Responsible Risk Management, PATH International STRIDES, Winter 2020, 50-53.