

# DOWN SYNDROME PHYSICIAN FORM

MAJESTIC HILLS RANCH  
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***This needs to be signed by a physician or certified nurse practitioner yearly.***

According to PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International), atlantoaxial instability (AAI) is a potentially paralyzing or life-threatening condition that is common with Down Syndrome and less common with other disorders. The instability of the joint between the first and second cervical vertebrae is generally due to poor muscle tone and ligament laxity that can only be diagnosed by a complete neurologic exam.

Note that it is not just a fall that has a potential for injury to the rider. For participants with low muscle tone and laxity in the joints of the neck, the repeated movement of the equine or a sudden quick movement of the equine, as with a spook or a misstep, could be enough to cause problems.

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Exam: \_\_\_\_\_

- Neurologic Symptoms of Atlantoaxial Instability **were absent** during the examination, and mounted equine-assisted services would benefit the rider.
  
- Neurologic Symptoms of Atlantoaxial Instability (including but not limited to a change of head control, change in gait, change of hand control, change of bladder function, an increase of muscle tone, or fatigue) were present during the exam, and it is a contraindication for mounted equine services.

Date of exam: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or concerns from the exam: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given the above diagnosis and medical information, this person is not medically precluded from participation in equine-assisted services. I understand that Majestic Hills Ranch will weigh the medical information given against the existing precautions and contraindications. Therefore, I refer this person to MHR for ongoing evaluation to determine eligibility for participation.

Name/Title (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ MD DO NP PA Other

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ License/UPIN Number: \_\_\_\_\_