

# Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Standards for Certification & Accreditation

## *2018 Edition*



Professional Association of Therapeutic  
Horsemanship International

Published by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, a nonprofit organization. PATH Intl. changes and enriches lives by promoting excellence in equine-assisted activities and therapies.

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# **PATH International Standards as They Apply to Centers**



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# **PATH International Standards as They Apply to Instructors**



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# **PATH International Core Standards**



**The Core Standards contain standards that all centers must meet. The Core Standards are divided into three sections: Administrative and Business, Facility, and Equine Welfare and Management.**

**The Administration and Business Section contains standards that require plans, policies and procedures that normally require executive and managerial decisions. It contains standards that include requirements for human resources, training and client and personnel forms.**

**The Administrative and Business section also contains standards that require emergency planning and protocols.**

**The Facility Section contains standards that delineate requirements for grounds/buildings, equipment storage and maintenance, and activity areas.**

**The Equine Welfare and Management Section contains standards that specify the requirements for the selection, care, management, training and use of the equine as well as equine equipment safety, care, fit and assignment.**

# PATH International Activity Standards

**Activity Standards:** Activity Standards are concerned with HOW the interaction between the participant and equine occurs. Centers may find more than one activity that describes how their programs are delivered. If one or more of these activities are part of a center's programs, the center should comply with the appropriate Activity Standards in addition to the Core Standards.

**Mounted Activities:** Mounted Activities (MA) are those activities where a participant is mounted on the equine during all or part of a session. Mounted activities may be part of programs in therapeutic riding, hippotherapy, tandem hippotherapy or mounted equine-facilitated psychotherapy, in addition to others. Mounted activities are directly supervised by a PATH Intl. Certified Riding Instructor.

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**Driving Standards:** Driving Activities (DA) are those activities where a participant is in a cart, carriage or other vehicle that is hitched behind an equine. Driving activities are directly supervised by a PATH Intl. Certified Driving Instructor.

**Interactive Vaulting Standards:** Interactive Vaulting Activities (VA) are those activities where the participant engages in activity both on and off the equine during the session, while the equine is being lunged. Interactive vaulting activities are directly supervised by a PATH Intl. Certified Vaulting Instructor.

**Ground Standards:** Ground Activities (GA) are those activities where a participant interacts with the equine from the ground. This could be all or part of a session for the participant. Ground activities may be used in equine-facilitated psychotherapy, therapeutic riding, interactive vaulting, driving, hippotherapy or other equine activities and therapies. Ground activities are directly supervised by a PATH Intl. credentialed professional with training and certification in the specific equine activity offered.

# PATH International Service Standards



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**Service Standards:** Service Standards are concerned with goals or outcome for the participant. Centers may find more than one service that describes the goals of participants in their programs. If one or more of these service areas are part of a center's programs, the center should comply with the appropriate Service Standards in addition to the Core Standards.

**Equestrian Skill Standards:** Equestrian Skill (ESK) Services are services where the goal or outcome for the participant is to gain a horsemanship skill. These skills may be in the area(s) of riding, driving, vaulting or ground skills.

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**Medical/Mental Health Standards: Medical/Mental Health (MMH) Services are services where the goal or outcome for the participant is a medical/mental health change for the participant. Medical/Mental Health Services are always provided by a licensed, credentialed health care professional and include hippotherapy and equine-facilitated psychotherapy. These standards apply to centers that have any role in the MMH session regardless if the health care professional is contracted or is an employee of the center. If the center provides horses, arena space, volunteers and/or PATH Intl. Certified Instructor or Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning, then the center is conducting a MMH service and must comply with these standards.**





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# **PATH International Field Test Standards**

# **PATH International Sample Forms**

**Please be advised that the following forms are provided in this manual as samples for format only. It is the responsibility of each center to know and understand the laws in your state that regulate the content, necessary components and intent of each of these documents.**



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# **PATH International Sample Service Forms**

**Please be advised that the following forms are provided in this manual as samples for format only. It is the responsibility of each center to know and understand the laws in your state that regulate the content, necessary components and intent of each of these documents.**



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# PATH International Glossary



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# **PATH International Guidelines**



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# PATH International Precautions & Contraindications



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**\*Prepared by the PATH Intl. Health and Education Advisory Group.** The PATH Intl. Health and Education Advisory Group is an interdisciplinary group of health and education professionals. The information presented in this section is to be used as a guide only. In all participant evaluations, members are encouraged to confer with the participant's physician and/or therapist/mental health professional. PATH Intl. and the PATH Intl. Health and Education Advisory Group are not responsible for the use or misuse of information presented in this section.