



Free S.P.I.R.I.T. Riders, Inc.

Special People in Riding Therapy

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The NARHA Board of Directors has approved the Medical Committee's revision to the precaution/contraindication for seizures. This precaution/contraindication appears in the *Operating Center Standards and Accreditation Manual*. Please take note of this revised policy.

Seizures are a disruption of brain function manifested as impairment or loss of consciousness, abnormal motor activity, and sensory disturbances. Congenital disorders, disease, or trauma may cause seizures. If a seizure disorder is noted on the Physician Referral, then Free S.P.I.R.I.T. Riders, Inc. would need the following additional information to help our instructors plan for a safe session. Center staff and volunteers will be made aware of the correct first aid procedures should a seizure occur.

Name _____
Address _____

1. Type of seizure: _____	
2. Typical aura: _____ _____	
3. Typical motor activity during seizure: _____ _____	
4. Average duration of the seizure: _____	5. Current frequency of the seizures: _____
6. Description of the rider's behavior during the post-ictal (recovery) state, and its duration. _____ _____	
7. What to do should a seizure occur during Free S.P.I.R.I.T. Riders, Inc. activities: _____ _____	

Precaution: A rider's seizure disorder is a precaution to Free S.P.I.R.I.T. Riders, Inc. if the motor activity, change in postural tone, loss of motor control, or alteration in consciousness is minor and unlikely to frighten or injure the horse, rider, or staff. In addition, it is a precaution if the frequency of seizures, or the seizure medication, causes significantly decreased awareness and alertness that is not improving by riding.

Contraindication: Seizures accompanied by strong, uncontrollable motor activity may be a contraindication to riding. Also, atonic "drop" seizures may be a contraindication due to the sudden and complete loss of postural muscle tone.