

# Medicaid Reimbursement for Therapy Using Equine Movement

## HB22-1068

Health First Colorado, Colorado’s Medicaid program, currently does not cover therapy using equine movement because they regard it as experimental. This is based on the misidentification of using equine movement in therapy as being a separate service outside of standard occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language therapy. Therapy using equine movement is regarded as a scope of practice treatment tool by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). HB22-1068 would make medical reimbursement available for therapy using equine movement when provided by a physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech-language pathologist. Over 37 states have already made this move and it is time that Colorado join those other states in allowing health professionals to use invaluable tools in treatment.

## What is Therapy Using Equine Movement?

- Use of evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning in the purposeful manipulation of equine movement to facilitate the neuromuscular and sensory systems
- Therapy tool used to engage sensory, neuromotor, and cognitive systems to promote functional outcomes
- Can be integrated with other treatments and strategies to address patients' goals

## Who Benefits?

- Age: Children 2 years and older to adults
- Impairments: mild to severe neurologic, sensory, oral-motor, communication and/or motor deficits

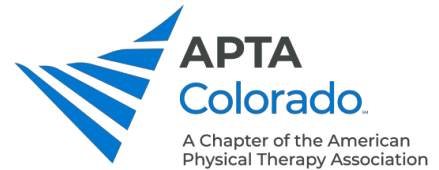
## Research Evidence

- AOTA, APTA, and ASHA have recognized the use of equine movement as an effective therapy tool since the 1980s
- Regarded as standard practice for occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists
- 103 peer-review journal articles, 12 peer review case studies, and 13 meta-analyses support the value of using equine movement
- Can be used to improve function for patients with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, Down syndrome, postural instability, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, language-learning disability and stroke



**Vote YES on HB22-1068**

# HB22-1068 Supporters



## Facilities in Colorado Providing Therapy Using Equine Movement

Miracles Therapeutic Riding Center (Lafayette)  
Colorado Springs Therapeutic Riding Center (Colorado Springs)  
Rocky Mountain Riding Therapy (Boulder)  
Front Range Hippotherapy (Longmont)  
Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center (Longmont)  
Hearts and Horses Therapeutic Riding Center (Loveland)  
Hand in Hand Pediatric Therapy (Wheat Ridge)  
Promise Ranch Therapies and Recreation (Castle Rock)  
Montrose Therapeutic Riding Center (Montrose)  
Dream Catcher Therapy Center (Olathe)  
Temple Grandin Equine Center (Fort Collins and Denver)  
Sundance Therapy (Denver and Elizabeth)  
And many more...