

St David's

**REHABILITATION
SERVICES**

12221 N. Mopac Expwy., Austin, TX 78758

March 13, 2006

To whom it may concern:

We have utilized music therapy at St. David's Rehabilitation Center since May of 2004. St. David's is committed to providing comprehensive and state-of-the-art modalities to its rehabilitation patients. To reach that end, Music therapy has become a critical piece of our neurological treatment program. The inpatient population at St. David's Rehabilitation Center consists of a large stroke population. In addition we treat brain injuries, Parkinson's Disease and spinal cord injured patients. The stroke and Parkinson's patients seem to particularly benefit from music therapy. In these patients, we notice that music therapy prompts motor responses otherwise difficult to elicit. Also, gait training with music therapy is beneficial to develop proper rhythm, cadence and increase step length.

Music therapy is provided in group and individual settings. Speech, Occupational and Physical therapists often schedule co-treats with the music therapists to enlist their help in reaching the patient's therapeutic goals. Our music therapists are vital members of the rehabilitation treatment team and as such work with other team members to develop a treatment plan which maximizes patient progress.

In an intensive rehabilitation facility, Medicare requires that patients receive three hours of therapy five days a week. Though music therapy does not count towards this three hours, we find the therapy so beneficial we choose to continue the program. Music therapy not only contributes to positive patient outcomes, it enhances both staff and patient satisfaction.

As a rehabilitation professional and as an administrator, I fully support the music therapy program.

Sincerely,

Diane Owens, PT, GCS, MSHP, CHE
Director Clinical Rehabilitation Services
St. David's Rehabilitation Center