

Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
7737 Southwest Freeway, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77074

March 8, 2006

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Music Therapy in the Physical Rehabilitation setting.

The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) is committed to excellence in the areas of patient care, clinical research, and cutting-edge treatments. Music therapy is an invaluable part of the interdisciplinary team on The Brain Injury and Stroke Program at TIRR. Music therapists have the unique ability to access “untapped” regions of the brain through music, musical instruments, and therapeutic song writing. Occupational therapy has found music therapy consistently able to use the rhythm and the beat of a song to:

- facilitate initiation of motor recruitment,
- facilitate increased coordination in patients with dyspraxia/incoordination,
- and increase sustained motor activation in the involved upper extremity. From a psychosocial perspective, music therapy has the ability to:
 - 1) increase motivation,
 - 2) readiness for physical rehabilitation, and
 - 3) facilitate increased effort during physical activities.

I would recommend the inclusion of music therapy into any rehabilitation program. It is my professional opinion that it is especially beneficial to persons with neurological involvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michael Pirkle, MPH, OTR, OT Supervisor
The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research
Brain Injury and Stroke Program
1333 Moursund
Houston, Texas 77030-3405
Telephone: 713-797-7374
Fax: 713-797-7384
pirklm@tirr.tmc.edu