



Statement for Acceptance to Handi*Camp



Handi*camp conducts camp in semi-rustic settings. Although Handi*Camp is staffed with registered nurses, it is necessary that all campers are medically stable. Therefore, the following criteria has been developed to assist in determining, from a medical perspective, the appropriateness of each applicant to participate in the overall program.

Health Care Criteria

It is understood, that:

- Only simple range of motion and/or stretching exercises will be performed at camp a maximum of twice a day;
- We are **unable to accommodate** individuals with IV's, heparin locks, or other IV ports currently utilized for administration of medication.
- We are **able** to accommodate individuals:
 - with ***gastrostomy or jejunostomy tubes*** greater than a year old whose feeding schedule is not more than 4 times a day and **does not require a pump**. An extra tube must be provided in case the current one becomes obstructed or the balloon fails.
 - with ***PEG tubes***. However, should the tube become clogged or dislodged, the individual will be sent to the **local Emergency Room** and admitted to the hospital for surgical replacement or reinsertion of the tube.
 - with a ***tracheostomy*** providing it is **corked**, requires **no suctioning** and requires **only daily dressing changes**. A replacement ***tracheostomy tube*** and ***obturator*** must be brought to camp, in the event of an emergency;
- We are only able to accommodate individuals requiring ***nebulizer treatments*** up to 4 times a day, ***inhalers***, and or simple breathing exercises up to 3 times a day. This does not include percussion and postural drainage treatments, which, because of the schedule at camp, we are **unable** to accommodate.
- We are able to accommodate individuals on no more than 2 liters/minutes of oxygen overnight or as needed during the day. Keep in mind that we have limited space in cabins and large canisters are

more difficult to store safely. Handi*Camp does take field trips, so a portable oxygen tank or canister is necessary for these trips.

- Due to the facilities available to us, we are **unable** to accommodate individuals with respirators 24 hr/day, but we are able to accommodate individuals on C-Pap, Bi-Pap or similar machines at night or as necessary.
- When considering camp, keep in mind that we are not staffed with Registered Dieticians or Nutritionists who are trained to implement strict dietary regimens. We will do our best to accommodate common diets, such as low fat, low or no salt, and lower calories diets. Individuals may bring food from home to provide for these special dietary needs.
- We are able to accommodate individuals with diabetes who are **not insulin dependent**. Keep in mind that we do not have Registered Dieticians or Nutritionists who help regulate diabetic diets. Individuals may bring food from home to provide for these special dietary needs.
- To ensure safety, campers must not have recurring history of problems with respiration, swallowing or choking.

Communication & Social Interaction Criteria

It is understood that campers must:

- have a well established communication system, verbal or augmentative, that allows for effective peer and staff interaction;
- be able to comprehend their own needs, ask for assistance when necessary, and indicate when they are in distress;
- have no history of frequent inappropriate behavioural tendencies towards abuse of themselves or others;
- be able to actively participate in a group environment with a 1:2 ratio of staff campers: please note that there is 1:1 care provided at camp;
- be able to enjoy group meals in the dining hall without being disruptive to others;
- be able to sleep in a cabin with a group of campers without being disruptive to others;

- be able to receive assistance with physical care (I.e. feeding, changing, etc.) from more than one caregiver, including camp counsellors and program staff.

General Criteria

It is understood that:

- a signed medical statement from the camper's primary care physician be provided to us prior to camp admission stating that the camper has been medically stable for the past 6 months;
- Handi*Camp reserves the right to accept or deny an individuals acceptance to Handi*Camp who does not meet the criteria Or for whom it cannot be established that their needs can be safely met based upon the application and other information gathered during the application process. Also Handi*Camp reserves the right to deny admission to any camper whose medical/physical/behavioural condition upon arrival at camp is significantly different to that which was disclosed in the application form and/or during home visit and/or was advised in writing prior to the camp. Acceptance is also dependent upon the availability of staff to meet the needs of the applicant.