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DESCRIPTION OF MODIFIED REQUIREMENTS TRACK FOR THE CLINICAL MUSICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Playing therapeutic music at the bedside is very different than other playing situations. The Clinical Musician Certification Program (CMCP) explains these differences, gives background into the history and scientific basis of therapeutic music, and trains the musician to play in a therapeutic manner by utilizing specific tools of improvisation and music styles. Most musicians, even those with experience playing in care centers and hospitals, are surprised at the depth of the materials and the difference that is made through the training. All students are required to go through both levels of the course.

Students with extensive background and experience or training in therapeutic music may qualify for a Modified Requirements Track CMCP. Application does not guarantee acceptance into the Modified Requirements option. All requirements for reading materials must still be met and music skills must be adequately demonstrated. To apply for this option, you must submit the following items:

1. A recording of how you would play for each of the following patient categories
 - Children--10 minutes--demonstrating rhythmic music
 - Elderly--10 minutes--demonstrating familiar music
 - General care--10 minutes--demonstrating familiar and non-familiar music (improvisation)
 - End of life/pain relief--10 minutes--demonstrating non-rhythmic, non-melodic music
2. A summary of your experience, including the number of hours played at bedside
3. A recommendation from at least one facility where you have served

Non-rhythmic music is music without a discernible pulse, rhythm, or beat. It is explained in the course materials and a student's mentor coaches the student in learning how to lose the beat while still remaining "musical". Non-melodic music does not have a recognizable melody or repeating melodic patterns. Again, it is a style that is discussed and coached through the course materials. A student who is unfamiliar with non-rhythmic or non-melodic music styles does not qualify for the abbreviated program.

Level 2 requires a 45 hour internship of bedside music. An applicant for the abbreviated program must have similar experience hours.

The main differences between the abbreviated and standard requirements are the internship requirement and the level of involvement from the mentor. An applicant who qualifies for the abbreviated course will be expected to work with minimal support from a mentor.

For an advanced musician who chooses to enroll in the program but does not qualify for the abbreviated program, the music skills portion of the program can be adapted to meet the student's level of skills. The mentor is more of a guide and coach than a taskmaster and may excuse any of the music skill worksheets that are unneeded by the student. The goal is not to make the student jump through hoops. The goal is to teach the student how to be an effective bedside musician with a toolbox of abilities to play in any therapeutic style--rhythmic, non-rhythmic, melodic, non-melodic, familiar or unfamiliar--and to be able to smoothly change the tools as needed by the patient.

Questions regarding the CMCP Modified Requirements track should be directed to the home office.