

## Advanced Diagnostic Pain Treatment Centers Service and Emotional Support Animals Policy

### DEFINITION

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#### Service Animals

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as **dogs** (or a miniature horse in some cases) **individually trained to work or perform tasks directly related to a person's disability**.

Service animals must be allowed into public areas of medical facilities except where special precautions for health and safety are required.

#### Emotional Support Animal

An emotional support animal is an animal of any species that *solely* provides companionship, comfort, and emotional support. Companionship, comfort and emotional support do not constitute "work" or "tasks" as defined by the ADA. Emotional support animals are not service animals under the ADA and are therefore not protected under the same laws.

For example: A dog that has been trained to sense an anxiety attack is about to happen and take a specific action to help avoid the attack or lessen its impact would qualify as a service animal. However, if a dog's mere presence provides comfort, that dog would not be considered a service animal. A *service dog* is trained to do a *specific task* related to a *disability*.

To determine if your animal is a service dog, we may ask you the following two questions:

1. **Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?**
2. **What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?**

### POLICY

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- Advanced Diagnostic allows *service animals* in all *public* areas of the practice. For health and safety reasons, the Operating Suite and the pump refill rooms are restricted areas where service animals are not permitted.
- Service animals must be under the control of their handler at all times and must be leashed or harnessed unless using these devices would interfere with the animal performing its task.
- A service animal can be excluded or removed from a facility, program or activity when:
  - there is a direct threat to the health and safety of others, or the animal has a history of such behavior
  - the animal is not under the control of the person using the animal
  - the animal is not housebroken, is visibly unclean or ill, or has an extremely unpleasant odor
  - the animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of services
- *Emotional support animals and pets* are not allowed in any area of the practice. If you are accompanied by a pet or emotional support animal, your appointment can be rescheduled, or you can have another person care for your animal outside our office during your appointment. Please do not leave your animal unattended in your car as this can be life-threatening to the animal.
- Advanced Diagnostic employees are not responsible for caring for or cleaning up after animals accompanying our patients.

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I have read and understood the Service and Emotional Support Animals Policy.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_