

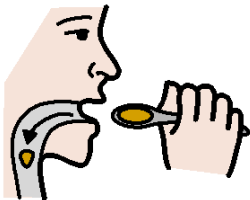
Swallowing difficulties

Speech and Language Therapy Adult Learning Disability Service



Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.



What we do

As part of our role as Speech and Language Therapists, we help people who have difficulty with swallowing when eating and drinking.

We call this Dysphagia.

Referrals



We may receive referrals through telephone calls or letters. To help us work out how quickly we need to see you, we may complete a screening questionnaire over the telephone to gather more information.

How quickly will we see you?



We aim to see people within 5 working days, however if we think we need to see you sooner, we will.

The Community LD SLT service does not provide an emergency service. The LD SLT service is open 8.30 – 16.30, Monday – Friday only.

If a person has become very dehydrated and confused due to not being able to take in enough fluid, hospital admission may be needed – advice should be sought from your GP.

If a person has a severe chest infection or aspiration pneumonia, hospital admission will be needed.

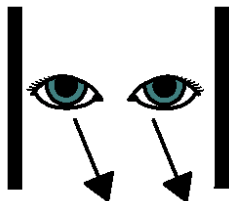
In the case of urgent referrals, please contact the GP or Accident and Emergency.

Assessment



We will come to where you live or spend the day.

When we come to see you we may talk to you or other people who support you, to get information about your eating and drinking.



We will watch you eat and drink. This will usually be at lunchtime.

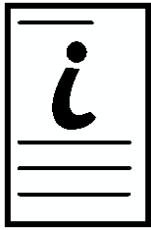
If you require someone to support you when eating and drinking, they will need to help you as usual.

Who will complete the assessment?

The assessment will be carried out by a Speech and Language Therapist.

It may take more than one visit to complete the assessment.

What happens after the assessment?



Once we have finished our assessment, we will talk with you and other people who support you, to agree on recommendations for safe eating and drinking.

We will write these in a report and send a copy to you, your Doctor and anyone else involved.

Speech & Language Therapy Recommendations for Eating & Drinking.		National Patient Safety Agency
was visited on by a Speech and Language Therapist to review her eating and drinking. The following recommendations have been made.		
Food <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant box <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Normal – cut-up into bite-sized pieces <input type="checkbox"/> Normal – finely chopped <input type="checkbox"/> Soft food (texture E) <input type="checkbox"/> Soft fork mashable (texture D) <input type="checkbox"/> Puree (texture C) <input type="checkbox"/> Thin puree (texture B) <input type="checkbox"/> Liquidised (texture A)	Drinks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant box <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 1 (syrup consistency) <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 2 (custard consistency) <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3 (pudding consistency)	Equipment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant box <input type="checkbox"/> No changes recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Changes required
Position Description of client's position	Assistance required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant box <input type="checkbox"/> Self-feeds <input type="checkbox"/> Needs assistance	Things to look out for Any problems please contact: Laura Wignall, Speech and Language Therapist 01271 388226

We will also make a 'mealtime mat' which is a quick, simple way to present these recommendations.

Reviewing

It may be appropriate for the Speech and Language Therapist to check over a period of time, how you are getting on. Dates to do this will be agreed with you or those who support you. For some people, this may be more regularly than others.

Discharge



You will be discharged from speech and language therapy when you no longer need any further support or advice about your swallowing. The timing of this will be agreed with you and those people who support you.

What if I need more help?



If you have been discharged but have more problems or questions, you can speak to the Speech and Language Therapy service and ask to be seen again.

Training



The Speech and Language Therapy team can provide training for others who support individuals with swallowing problems or whole staff groups on request.

Further information

Lead Speech and Language Therapist, Learning Disability Team
Tel. 01392 383000

Dept. of Health, Valuing People (2001)

National Patient Safety Agency (2004), Understanding the patient safety issues for people with Learning Disabilities

RCSLT Adult Learning Disability Position Paper, RCSLT (2003) www.rcslt.org

References

RCSLT Adult Learning Disability Position Paper, RCSLT (2003) www.rcslt.org

Resource manual for commissioning and planning services for SLCN, RCSLT (2009)

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple. Alternatively, it may be possible for us to arrange an appointment in your area.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of the ward staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Patient Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.patientopinion.org.uk.

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