

Paediatric Dysphagia - Feeding and Swallowing Difficulties

An information guide



Paediatric Dysphagia - Feeding and Swallowing Difficulties

Your child has been referred to the Specialist Speech and Language Team

This may have been by another professional such as your Health Visitor, GP, consultant, or school nurse.

Why has my child been referred?

We assess and provide advice to parents and families of children aged between 0 to 18 years that have feeding and swallowing difficulties. This is called dysphagia.

We aim to make an appointment to see your child within 6 weeks of receiving the referral. This will be sooner if your child's difficulties need urgent attention.

The children we support may have one or more of the following physical difficulties:

- Swallowing problems.
- Chewing/biting difficulties due to weak and/or uncoordinated muscles in the mouth.
- Poor suckling skills.

Some examples of symptoms that may prompt a referral to our team include:

- Frequent coughing during and/or after food or drink.
- Choking.
- Aspiration i.e. when food and/or drink enters the airway.
- Recurrent chest infections.

Please see your health professional (health visitor, school nurse or GP) for a referral to the appropriate service if your child experiences difficulty with:

- Trying new textures.
- Weaning.
- Gastro-oesophageal reflux.
- Food aversion (fear of food).
- Or has sensory difficulties in relation to a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition.

What will the Specialist Speech and Language Therapy team do?

We will work closely with you and other health professionals (e.g. paediatrician, health visiting team, school nurse, GP). We may invite you to a feeding clinic appointment, see your child in an educational setting or visit you at home to assess your child's feeding skills.

We offer specialist advice and specific management strategies that you can use to ensure safety around swallowing and help your child to develop or improve their feeding skills.

We may need to refer your child on to other health professionals for support or further assessment. This may include a Videofluoroscopy (a special type of x-ray used to assess swallowing).

We may need to make a referral to physiotherapy for posture, occupational therapy for seating and equipment and any sensory needs, and a dietician if we have concerns around intake requirements of food and fluids.

Consent

We will ensure that we have your consent before we assess or provide treatment for your child and will keep you fully informed about their treatment and progress.

Patient advice and liaison service

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) acts on behalf of service users, families, and carers to negotiate prompt solutions and help bring about changes in the way that services are developed.

As well as providing a confidential advice and support service, PALS will help guide you through the different services available from the NHS.

Telephone: 0161 604 5897

Email: pals@pat.nhs.uk.

Alternatively, you can write to: PALS, IM&T Building, North Manchester General Hospital, Delaunays Road, Crumpsall, M8 5RB.

Comments and complaints

We want to learn from comments and complaints about our services. If you have any, please speak with a member of staff. Every effort will be made to resolve any concerns and complaining will not cause any difficulties in your care with us.

You can also contact our Complaints Department via post at:

Complaints Department, IM&T Building, North Manchester General Hospital, Delaunays Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5RB

E-mail: complaintsoffice.trust@pat.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0161 604 5800

Contact us

Specialist Speech and Language Therapy Team

Werneth Primary Care Centre,

Featherstall Road South,

Oldham,

OL9 7AY,

Tel: 0161 357 5228 - Option 3

Notes:

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897

For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

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