

Dysphagia Management Clinic

The clinic provides a service to children with *feeding difficulties as a result of chronic and complex medical conditions including cerebral palsy and other physical and intellectual disabilities*. Many patients present with supplemental feeding.

The clinic offers:

- Consultation and feeding assessment as necessary
- Modified barium swallow investigations
- Enteral feeding and stoma therapy support
- Endoscopy through the Gastroenterology Department
- Bone mineral density/body composition studies
- Referral for other medical investigations, as necessary
- Review, including dietetics, speech pathology and physiotherapy
- Ongoing management, with referral back to local services as necessary

Indications for referral include:

- Nutritional concerns
- Failure to thrive
- Gastro-oesophageal reflux/vomiting
- Naso-gastric or gastrostomy problems
- Swallowing incoordination
- Chronic lung disease, recurrent aspiration and chest infections
- Associated osteoporosis

Feeding outcomes

Restoration of healthy nutritional status and healthy bones, and safe oral feeding, if possible.

Referral process:

- Written referral from attending medical officer.
- Contact: Clinical Nurse Specialist, telephone 9845 3971.

Clinic Frequency:

- Every Monday morning

Multidisciplinary Feeding Service

The Multidisciplinary Feeding Service provides a service to children with *feeding difficulties that result from, or are a part of, medical conditions, eg., cardiac, renal, and mild to moderate disability, but excluding cerebral palsy. It provides continuum of care for discharged inpatients*. The majority of patients are infants whose prognosis for oral feeding is yet to be determined.

The clinic offers:

- Consultation and in-clinic assessment of feeding and nutrition
- Breast feeding assessment with a Child and Family Health CNC
- Enteral feeding support
- Stoma therapy
- Community and nursing liaison
- Occupational therapy on call
- Psychological medicine involvement for families
- Modified barium swallow investigations
- Specialist medical investigations
- Review, including dietetics and speech pathology
- Ongoing management, with referral back to local services as necessary

Indications for referral include:

- Enteral nutrition
- Failure to thrive
- Oral motor and sensory problems
- Swallowing incoordination
- Behavioural or interaction issues surrounding eating/food refusal including autism
- Specific stoma problems combined with feeding difficulties
- Breast feeding difficulties

Feeding outcomes

Eventual transition from non-oral to normal oral feeding patterns, whilst supporting a healthy nutritional status.

Referral process:

- Written referral from attending medical officer.
- Contact: Clinic Coordinator, telephone 9845 2225.

Clinic Frequency:

- Every Monday.

Speech Pathology Department

The Speech Pathology department provides a service to children whose *feeding difficulties arise mainly from oral motor and sensory difficulties and other mealtime management issues.*

The clinic offers:

- Consultation
- Ongoing management, with referral back to local services as necessary
- Review
- Modified barium swallow investigations
- Therapy

Indications for referral include:

- Oral motor and sensory problems
- Swallowing incoordination
- Behavioural or interaction issues surrounding eating/food refusal including autism

Feeding outcomes

Safe feeding practices, normalisation of mealtime patterns and oral feeding in the long term for non-oral patients.

Referral process:

- Written referral from paediatrician and specialists associated with The Children's Hospital at Westmead.
- Contact: Speech Pathology Secretary, telephone 9845 2076

Clinic frequency:

- Every Tuesday.

the
children's
hospital at Westmead

Outpatient Services for Children with Feeding Difficulties

Comprehensive services for children with varying degrees of feeding difficulties are provided through a network of clinics at The Children's Hospital at Westmead; The Dysphagia Management Clinic, The Multidisciplinary Clinic and the Speech Pathology Department.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead
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