

# Paediatric Dysphagia Management Summary - UHDB

Reference No: CH CLIN NUTRI 01

### **Summary Guideline**

This is a clinical guideline summary for the management of paediatric dysphagia.

## Introduction

Dysphagia is the medical term used to describe disordered eating and drinking. Dysphagia specifically refers to difficulties with eating and drinking/feeding relating toan underlying disruption to the swallowing process.

Dysphagia is a serious risk to health because of the associated risks of aspiration, pneumonia, malnutrition, dehydration and airway obstruction (choking).

Patients at Derby Children's Hospital, Neonatal Intensive Care at the Royal Derby Hospital and Neonatal Unit at Queen's Hospital Burton can experience difficulties with feeding, eating, drinking and swallowing to varying degrees of impairment. These difficulties can affect either one, some or all the oral, pharyngeal or oesophageal stages of swallowing.

#### **Disclaimer**

See full guideline for further information.

# Speech & Language Therapy - Acute Paediatric Pathway

AHP Nursing, or Medical Team raise concern regarding child's feeding/eating/drinking/swallowing/risk of aspiration by referring to the Speech & Language Therapy Service at UHDB by one of the following: By emailing dchst.sltacutechildrenreferrals@nhs.net Via verbal discussion with acute SLT; ext 85656 Via Extramed Referral triaged and registered on SystmOne following consideration of; Prioritisation Speech & Language Therapy Is Speech & Language Therapy **Initial Assessment** indicated? Written advice provided for: NO YES Parents/Carers with verbal feedback if **Nursing Team** Can patient be seen as an NO **Medical Team** possible. inpatient before planned YES discharge? Is ongoing treatment required? YES \ NO Treatment provided in acute setting Child discharged from Speech & Language Therapy Discharged from Speech NO Service with written information SLT follow-up & Language Therapy and explanation. Signposting to required post-Service - no further SLT additional services provided, as discharge? contact indicated. required Written report provided YES Transfer to Community Speech & Language Therapy Team Written report provided

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