The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust

Role of the Speech and Language Therapist at New Cross Hospital

Adult Speech and Language Therapy
Acute and Community AHPs

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- **Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available**
- **If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111**
- **Keep the environment clean and tidy**
- **Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.**

Introduction

This leaflet is for adults who have been referred to the Speech and Language Therapy service as an in-patient at New Cross Hospital. It provides information on the role of Speech and Language Therapists in supporting patients with communication and swallowing needs.

What is a Speech and Language Therapist?

A Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) is a healthcare professional who specialises in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of speech, language, communication and swallowing (dysphagia) difficulties. They work with individuals of all ages across various settings, including hospitals, schools, care homes, community clinics, and private practices, tailoring their care to each patient's needs.

Who does a Speech and Language Therapist work with?

The Speech and Language Therapy team supports adults in the hospital setting who are experiencing speech, language, communication, social interaction, or swallowing difficulties. Here are some examples of the conditions they work with:

- Stroke
- Head and neck cancer
- Respiratory illnesses (e.g. chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or pneumonia)
- Head injury
- Progressive neurological conditions (e.g. Parkinson's Disease, Motor Neurone Disease and Multiple Sclerosis)
- Frailty
- Dementia
- Post-surgery patients
- Intensive care
- Palliative care

How will the Speech and Language Therapist help me?

Speech and Language Therapists support people with swallowing difficulties. The Speech and Language Therapist may complete a bedside assessment in order to:

- **Assess, diagnose and treat** swallowing problems and help find the cause and decide the best treatment
- **Recommend different textures of food and/or drink** to reduce the risk of food and/or drink going into the lungs and reduce the risk of choking. Food and/or drink going into the lungs can cause a chest infection
- **Provide strategies** to help make eating and drinking safer and/or more comfortable
- **Work with the ward team**, offering support for positioning and eating, to keep patients eating and drinking
- **Refer to other specialities** such as Dietetics, Ear, Nose and Throat or Gastroenterology
- **Arrange instrumental assessments, if appropriate.** Instrumental assessments may be used to further assess diagnose and treat swallowing problems. SLTs can arrange for a video X-ray of a patient's swallowing this is called a Videofluroscopy or a Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES). During this assessment the SLT will pass a small camera through the nostril and observe the patient swallowing

Speech and Language Therapists can also support people with communication difficulties. Here's how they can help:

- **Assess, diagnose, and treat** communication difficulties
- **Support understanding and expression**, helping patients to understand what is being said and express their thoughts and needs, this may be non-verbally
- **Provide alternative communication methods,** such as communication books and pictures. SLTs also provide advice on devices that are available

- **Offer strategies and exercises** to help people to speak clearly, use the right vocabulary, and make conversational skills better
- **Work with the ward team** offering communication support and making sure care meets treatment goals
- **Training the ward team, families and carers,** giving them with tools and techniques to support communication
- **Refer to other specialists**, such as Occupational Therapy or Psychology if appropriate

When will I be discharged from Speech and Language Therapy?

Some patients do not need the support of a Speech and Language Therapist after leaving the hospital. For those that have needs or goals related to speech, language, communication, or swallowing, our team will refer you to your community team for further support.

How do I get in touch?

Speech and Language Therapy Service
The Gem Centre
Neachells Lane
Wednesfield
Wolverhampton
WV11 3PG

Telephone: 01902 444363

Monday – Friday 8:30-16:30

Email: rwh-tr.Speech-And-Language@nhs.net

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。

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