

## Patient information

# Speech Therapy Swallow

Imaging Department

### What is a Speech Therapy Swallow?

- This examination is done in the X-ray department with a Speech Therapist, and a Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in X-rays).
- A Speech Therapy Swallow is an X-ray examination of the Pharynx (food pipe) using different drinks and foods of varying thicknesses mixed with barium.
- A video is taken whilst you swallow the different foods.
- There is no preparation for this examination. You can eat and drink what you would normally before and after the test.

### What are the benefits of having a Speech Therapy Swallow?

This procedure will help the Speech Therapist make the correct diagnosis so they will be able to teach you safe swallowing methods and give you the correct treatment.

### The risks of having a Speech Therapy Swallow

- **For patients of childbearing age:** X-rays may be harmful to an unborn child, especially in the early stages of pregnancy. If you are pregnant or there is any possibility of you being pregnant, please contact the X-ray department before your appointment.
- We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. Each X-ray examination gives us a small additional dose. This dose varies with each type of examination.

**If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Doctor or a member of their team.**

### The Examination

- You will be taken to the X-ray room.
- The test is performed with you seated within a special type of X-ray machine that takes images using a low dose X-ray technique called fluoroscopy.
- The Speech Therapist will give you the different drinks and foods and X-rays will be taken as you swallow.
- The examination usually takes between 10-20 minutes.

## **Results**

Your results are sent to the person who asked for this test to be carried out. This may be led by the hospital doctor or your family doctor (GP).

## **Cancellations**

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will arrange another for you.

If you fail to cancel and do not attend you will be discharged back to the care of the referring clinician.

## **Transport**

If your medical condition or mobility needs mean that you cannot get to your appointment any other way and you require transport you should ring the Patient Transport Services (PTS) who will arrange one for you.

**Tel: 0151 706 4676**

## **Car parking**

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car park located on Prescot Street, L6 1LY.

For those with walking difficulties, there is a shuttle bus service operating between Q-Park and The Royal Liverpool University Hospital. The bus operates Monday to Friday, 6am-8pm. If you find you are waiting a while for the bus, the driver's number is displayed on the Q-Park exit.

Parking for Blue Badge holders is free at the Mount Vernon Street entrance. However, parking is limited, and you are advised to allow sufficient time for parking as you may need to redirect to the nearby Q-Park.

**Please bring this leaflet with you when you attend the X-ray department.**

## **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **Further information**

**If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Radiology Appointments Office:**

**Tel: 0151 706 2759**

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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