

# Adult Speech-Language Pathology Outpatient Swallowing Services in Winnipeg

## INFORMATION FOR REFERRING PHYSICIANS AND PRIMARY PRACTITIONERS

### Role of the SLP

Speech-Language Pathologists have expertise in the assessment and management of oropharyngeal dysphagia. SLPs do not assess esophageal or gastric dysfunction.

SLP will triage clients to the most appropriate assessments which may include:

- Instrumental Assessment
  - Videofluoroscopic Swallow Study (VFSS) also known as a Modified Barium Swallow (MBS)
  - Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES)
- Non-Instrumental Assessment
  - Clinical swallowing assessment, sometimes called a bedside swallow assessment
  - Client/Family Education

### Referral Eligibility

**Speech-Language Pathology referral should be considered if symptoms are in the mouth and throat.**

**For example:**

- Choking event(s) that do not appear to be an isolated incident
- Frequent coughing or throat-clearing when eating or drinking
- Difficulty chewing, not due to dentition
- Food sticks in the throat
- Food stays in the mouth for a long time
- Food or liquids spill from mouth or nose
- Extremely slow eater
- Recurrent chest infections or pneumonias
- Follow-up re: PEG tube
- Anxiety related to swallowing, resulting in avoiding certain food textures or notable decline in oral intake

***\*Consider a referral to Gastroenterology if symptoms are more suggestive of esophageal or gastric difficulties such as sticking in the esophagus, nausea, regurgitation or vomiting.***

### Referral Information

- Speech-Language Pathologists perform swallowing assessments in a variety of clinics. Referral information, including a list of clinics, is on the following page.
- A completed diagnostic imaging form is required for videofluoroscopic swallowing studies.
- Quick links:
  - [WRHA Outpatient SLP Referral Form](#)
  - [Diagnostic Imaging Requisition](#)

## Adult Speech-Language Pathology Outpatient Swallowing Services in Winnipeg

| Outpatient Clinics   | Provincial Program | SLP services available to:   | Contact Information   |
|--|--------------------|--|---|
| Speech-Language Pathology<br>WRHA Adult Outpatient Program                               | <b>No</b>          | General Public in Winnipeg, East and West St. Paul, St. Norbert & Churchill  | Ph: 204-831-2526<br>Fax: 204-831-2953<br>See below for referral instructions.   |
| Progressive Neuromuscular<br>Disease Clinic  | <b>Yes</b>         | General Public   | Ph: 204-831-2526<br>Fax: 204-831-2953<br>Referrals processed by SLP WRHA Adult Outpatient Program (listed above)                          |
| Cancer Care Manitoba   | <b>Yes</b>         | CCMB clients with head, neck or upper body cancer  | Ph: 204-787-8094<br>Fax: 204 786-0625   |
| Deer Lodge Comprehensive<br>Geriatric Assessment Clinic<br>(previously DLC Day Hospital) | <b>No</b>          | Active clients of the clinic   | Ph: 204-831-2583<br>Fax: 204-889-6871   |
| St. Boniface Day Hospital  | <b>No</b>          | Active clients of the clinic   | Ph: 204-953-6400<br>Fax: 204-237-6674   |
| Movement Disorders Clinic  | <b>Yes</b>         | Active clients of the clinic   | Ph: 204-940-8400<br>Fax: 204-940-8414   |
| Motor Neuron Disease Clinic  | <b>Yes</b>         | Active clients of the clinic   | Ph: 204-831-2583<br>Fax: 204-889-6871   |
| St. Amant Feeding Swallowing<br>Nutrition Team (FSNT)                                    | <b>Yes</b>         | Adults with Developmental Disability / Intellectual Disability or Autism funded by the Community Living Disability Services (CLDS) | Ph: 204-258-7041<br>Fax: 204-258-7066<br>Email: intake@stamant.ca<br>Referrals are submitted by a Community Services Worker or physician. |
| Community Programs:  | Provincial Program | SLP services available to:   | Contact Information   |
| WRHA Home Care – Community<br>Stroke Care Service  | <b>No</b>          | Active clients of the program  | Contact the Case Coordinator to facilitate referral   |
| WRHA Home Care – Priority<br>Home  | <b>No</b>          | Active clients of the program  | Contact the Case Coordinator to facilitate referral   |
| PRIME – Deer Lodge and<br>Misericordia sites   | <b>No</b>          | Active clients of the program  | Contact the Case Coordinator to facilitate referral   |

Adults actively involved in a clinic or program with SLP on staff should request services through that program. Clients not actively connected to a specialized clinic or program may be referred to the Speech-Language Pathology WRHA Adult Outpatient Program.

### Speech-Language Pathology WRHA Adult Outpatient Program

The SLP WRHA Adult Outpatient Program provides services to adults 18 years and older and who live within the geographic boundaries of the WRHA. Referrals are accepted from physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. The signed [Referral Form](#) and [Diagnostic Imaging Requisition](#) may be sent to:

### WRHA Adult SLP Central Intake

SLP Department, 2109 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3J 0L3

Fax: 204-831-2953

Phone: 204-831-2526

**For services outside of Winnipeg, referrals can be made to the respective health region.**