

Speech Pathology

Outpatient service information, triage and referral guidelines

Description of Service:

The Speech Pathology department in Central Adelaide Local health Network (CALHN) is a specialist unit focusing on providing comprehensive assessment and management of a wide range of swallowing and communication impairments.

Services Provided:

- > Pre and post head & neck surgical education and management of communication and swallowing (including laryngectomy, mouth and throat related cancers)
- > Assessment and management of voice-related disorders
- > Joint ENT specialist/speech pathologist assessment and review of the larynx and voice at 'The Adelaide Voice Clinic' including laryngeal tumour surveillance
- > Assessment of complex swallowing disorders via fiberoptic-endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES) or joint radiology/speech pathology modified barium swallow study (DF Speech Pathology Swallow)

Exclusions:

- > Paediatric related speech/language/swallowing disorders
- > Adult speech and language difficulties (including articulation, stuttering, literacy difficulties, dyslexia, English as a second language).
- > Ongoing rehabilitation and/or management or communication and swallowing difficulties related to neurological and neurodegenerative conditions including Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, motor neurone disease or congenital conditions
- > Return to work/industrial rehabilitation/work cover/motor accident claims or any compensable condition.

For **URGENT** advice contact the Speech Pathology unit:

Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Ph: (08) 7074 0000
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) Ph: (08) 8222 6000

Alternatively, if the problem is urgent and the patient is unstable, the patient should be sent directly to the Emergency Department of the nearest hospital for assessment.

For more information or to make a referral contact:

Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Fax: (08) 7074 6247 Ph: 1300 153 853
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) Fax: (08) 8222 7244 Ph: 8222 6000



Essential Referral Content:

Demographic

- > Date of birth
- > Contact details
- > Referring GP details
- > Interpreter requirements
- > Medicate number

Clinical

- > Reason for referral
- > Duration of symptoms
- > Past medical history
- > Current medications
- > Previous Speech Pathology Interventions (including MBS/FEES reports)
- > Previous allied health interventions
- > Impact on quality of life/employment

Adult Triage Criteria for referral

| Category 1 1-4 weeks | Category 2 4-12 weeks | Category 3 > 12 weeks |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Head & Neck cancer pre-surgical education > Head & Neck cancer post-surgical planning > Respiratory compromise associated with acute emergency/admission e.g. PVFD > Post-surgical therapy (immediate) to optimise surgical outcomes and prevent need for future surgery. E.g. vocal fold medialisation; removal of lesion > At risk of aspiration or choking > Pre-op education for head & neck surgery or chemo radiotherapy/laryngectomy > Post-surgical review > Urgent voice prosthesis management due to dislodged valve > Assessment of sudden onset voice change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Acute functional upper airway issues e.g. vocal fold dysfunction > Medically based, recent onset voice aetiology e.g. progressive neurological disorder, CVA, spasmodic dysphonia > Surgically based voice aetiology e.g. head and neck surgery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Functional voice disorder with or without associated pathology e.g. laryngeal muscle constriction (+/- vocal nodules) > Transgender > Chronic functional upper airway issues e.g. chronic cough > Assessment of gradual voice change in non-smoker > Chronic dysphonia requiring therapeutic intervention. |

General information to assist with referrals and the referral templates for the RAH & TQEH are available to download from the CALHN Outpatient Services [website](#)

For more information or to make a referral

Royal Adelaide Hospital: 3F Outpatients Clinics
Referral Fax Number: (08) 7074 6247
Phone Number: 1300 153 853

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital: Rehabilitation building, Level 1
Referral Fax Number: (08) 8222 7244
Phone Number: (08) 8222 7020 / (08) 8222 7030

Web: www.sahealth.gov.au

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Speech Pathology Unit: Susan Mitchell

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