



Western Health

**SPEECH PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
DYSPHAGIA CLINIC REFERRAL CRITERIA**

The Western Health (WH) Dysphagia Clinic provides instrumental swallowing assessment (Videofluoroscopy) for patients within the community who experience swallowing difficulties (dysphagia) as a result of acute, chronic and/or degenerative conditions.

The Clinic is run by Speech Pathologists and is based at Footscray Hospital.

Please fax all referrals for the Dysphagia Clinic to the WH Referral Management Centre on:

(03) 8345 6856 or email referrals to outpatients@wh.org.au

The following patients are suitable for referral to the Western Health (WH) Dysphagia Clinic:

- Outpatients who present with oropharyngeal swallowing difficulties of any origin.
- Patients who require active intervention for, or monitoring of their swallowing difficulties.
- Patients who are currently being managed by a Speech Pathologist external to WH who require an instrumental swallowing assessment.*
(N.B. A fee of \$120 per assessment and \$120 per report (if required) will apply to patients who are referred via private Speech Pathology services)
- Patients who are able to attend the WH Dysphagia Clinic at Footscray Hospital.
- Patients who live within the WH catchment area (please refer to the following page for details).

The following patients are not appropriate for referral to the Western Health Dysphagia Clinic:

- Patients with oesophageal stage swallowing difficulties.
- Patients who reside in a High Level Care Facility.
- Patients who require a home visit.
- Patients who live outside the WH catchment area (as detailed above).

** Requests for VFSS from out-of-area public Speech Pathologists will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These requests must be accompanied by a written request for a VFSS from the patient's medical officer (detailing the patient's full name, date of birth and address) and a completed "Western Health Speech Pathology Dysphagia Planning Form".*

Queries regarding the clinic can be directed to the Speech Pathology Department at Western Health on
(03) 8345 0404

WESTERN HEALTH CATCHMENT AREAS

Sunshine		Williamstown	
SUBURB	POST CODE	SUBURB	POST CODE
Maidstone West Footscray	3012	Seddon Footscray	3011
Braybrook	3019	Brooklyn Kingsville Tottenham	3012
Sunshine Sunshine Nth /West Albion	3020	Yarraville	3013
St Albans Kings Park Kealba Albanvale	3021	Spotswood Newport South Kingsville	3015
Ardeer	3022	Williamstown	3016
Burnside Cairnlea Caroline Springs Deer Park Ravenhall	3023	Altona	3018
Derrimut	3030	Seaholme	3018
Maribyrnong	3032	Laverton Altona Meadows Seabrook	3028
Keilor	3036		
Delahey Hillside Taylors Hill Sydenham	3037	Altona North	3025
Keilor Downs Taylors Lakes	3038		
Keilor Park	3042		