



Northumbria Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Speech and language therapy service for adults in hospital

Issued by the acute speech and language therapy service

What is speech and language therapy?

Speech and language therapy aims to allow adults with communication or swallowing problems to live as fully and independently as possible. Working directly with patients, family members, friends or carers, speech and language therapists (SLTs) are trained to assess, treat and give advice about:

Communication problems including:

- understanding
- speaking
- reading
- writing
- voice
- fluency (stammering)

Swallowing problems including:

- choking
- drooling
- coughing related to eating and drinking
- difficulty coping with different types of food/liquid textures.

What can you expect from speech and language therapy?

The ward staff can refer anyone who is having communication or swallowing problems to speech and language therapy. A SLT will come and see you on the ward to discuss your difficulties. They will then work closely with other professionals for example physiotherapy, occupational therapy and medical staff, to plan how to maximise your communication and or swallowing ability through a tailored programme of treatment and intervention.

How will you know who the speech therapist is?

SLTs on the wards wear a grey tunic with white trim and black trousers.

What about after hospital?

If you require on-going speech and language therapy after you are discharged home, the SLT on the ward will transfer you to your local community based team who will in turn arrange an appointment with you to continue your care.

Contact numbers

If you or your relative are a patient in hospital you can contact the speech and language therapy departments on:

North Tyneside General Hospital 0191 2932712

Wansbeck General Hospital 01670 529748

Hexham General Hospital 01434 655084

The Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital

General wards 0191 6073063

Stroke unit 07771371771

Your hospital speech and language therapist is called:

.....

Your local community speech and language therapy team are based at:

.....

For more information about speech and language therapy, visit the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists website:

www.rcslt.org.uk

Alternative Formats

If you would like a copy of this information in large print, another language, audio tape or other format please call the Contact Centre on 03 44 811 8118.

Other sources of information

NHS 111

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/pages/homepage.aspx

NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)

www.nice.org.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Freephone: 0800 032 0202

Text: 07815 500015

Email: northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

General Enquiries 03 44 811 8111

www.northumbria.nhs.uk

PIN 630/V3

Review date: January 2023

© This material is the copyright of the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.