

## Paediatric Dysphagia Screening Questions

When concerns exist about a child or young person's swallow safety, it is essential that assessment and intervention be delivered in a timely manner. The information provided in a referral can directly influence the triage process and the time it takes to provide a child or young person with the input they need. The information below is intended as a guide to support the identification of children and young people who have a swallow disorder (dysphagia) and ensure the collection of quality referral information.

- Are there any concerns about the child or young person's eating, drinking and swallowing?
- Is the child or young person displaying any of the following signs of swallow difficulty?
  - Frequent and persisting gagging?
  - Coughing when eating and/or drinking?
  - Choking when eating and/or drinking?
  - Eye watering when eating and/or drinking?
  - Developing wet sounding breathing or voice when eating and/or drinking?
- How frequently are the above signs occurring when eating and/or drinking?
- Are there concerns that difficulty swallowing are negatively impacting on the child or young person's quality of life, e.g. restricting or refusing food and drink?
- Are there concerns that difficulty swallowing is negatively impacting on the child or young person's weight and growth?
- Are there concerns that difficulty swallowing is negatively impacting on the child or young person's level of hydration?
- Does the child or young person have a history of recurrent lower respiratory tract infections/chest infections?
- Has the child or young person's swallow been assessed previously and if so, what recommendations were made and are these recommendations being followed?

If the responses to these questions causes concern, then please refer the child or young person to their local Speech and Language Therapy Service for a swallow assessment. Please include this information in the referral to support effective triage and assessment planning.