

# OUTPATIENT SERVICE DESCRIPTION & TRIAGE GUIDELINES

## SPEECH PATHOLOGY (Adult)

### Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN)

### Speech Pathology (Adult)

SALHN Speech Pathology Outpatient services provides comprehensive assessment and management of a wide range of swallowing and communication impairments including;

- Oro-pharyngeal and Oesophageal Dysphagia
  - Using Modified Barium Swallow (MBS/VFSS) NHS & RGH
  - Fibre-optic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) – RGH
- Voice (Dysphonia) & Chronic Cough – RGH, NHS & FMC (including [Laryngoscopy](#))
- Speech (Dysarthria, Dyspraxia) – NHS & RGH
- Language (Aphasia) & Cognitive Communication Difficulties – NHS & RGH
- Fluency (Acute Episode only) – NHS

Paediatric feeding assessment and intervention is offered only at FMC – please refer [paediatric document](#)

#### Services provided

- Assessment and management of [swallowing](#), [communication](#) and voice impairments
- Objective assessment of swallowing using Modified Barium Swallow or Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of swallow (FEES)

#### Services not provided

- Chronic Adult Fluency
- Home visits

### For appointments, please contact Speech Pathology at the relevant site

Flinders Medical Centre (FMC)	Fax: (08) 8204 8941	for <b>URGENT</b> advice	Ph: (08) 8204 5933
Repatriation General Hospital (RGH)	Fax: (08) 8275 1951	for <b>URGENT</b> advice	Ph: (08) 8275 1861
Noarlunga Hospital (NH)	Fax: (08) 8384 9711	for <b>URGENT</b> advice	Ph: (08) 8384 9233

### Triage Criteria for Referral

<b>Category 1</b> <b>Target within 2 weeks</b> <b>Current &lt;= 2 week</b>	<b>Category 2</b> <b>Target within 2 months</b> <b>Current &lt;= 2 months</b>	<b>Category 3</b> <b>Target within 3 months</b> <b>Current &lt;= 3 months</b>
<p><b>Urgent</b> Swallowing Difficulties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At risk of aspiration or choking</li> <li>• Unable to meet nutritional needs orally</li> <li>• Deterioration in swallowing</li> <li>• Pre-op education for head &amp; neck surgery or chemo radiotherapy / laryngectomy</li> <li>• Post-surgical swallow review</li> <li>• Urgent voice prosthesis management due to dislodged valve</li> </ul> <p><b>Urgent</b> Communication/cognition difficulty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication/cognitive difficulties with high functional impact on living safely at home or returning to work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate post-acute follow-up to review swallowing and/or communication management plan</li> <li>• New suspected swallowing problems, low risk of aspiration</li> <li>• Assessment of sudden onset voice change</li> <li>• Suspected vocal fold palsy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable dysphagia and/or communication difficulties to review progress/management plan</li> <li>• Chronic cough</li> <li>• Assessment of gradual voice change in non-smoker</li> <li>• Chronic dysphonia requiring therapeutic intervention</li> </ul>

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients)

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	October 2014	October 2016	Original