



About dysphagia



An **Easy Read guide** for adults with a learning disability about dysphagia and how a Speech and language therapist can help you eat and drink safely.

Speech and Language Therapy Department
Adult Learning Disability Team

About dysphagia



Dysphagia is when you have problems with eating and drinking.

Having an assessment



A Speech and language therapist helps people that have dysphagia.



We can see you for an assessment at:

- your home
- your day centre
- the hospital



We will look inside your mouth.



We will watch you having something to eat and drink.



We will talk to you and your carer or family member.

We will make some notes.



We might listen to you swallow using a stethoscope.

This does not hurt.

What we will do to help you



After the assessment-

We will tell you if you need to make some changes to help you eat and drink safely.



This might be:

- making your food softer
- thickening your drinks
- using a different knife, fork, spoon, plate, or cup



This might be:

- changing the way you sit
- choosing a quiet place to have your meals
- making sure you have plenty of time to enjoy your food and drink

How to see the Speech and language therapist



You will need to telephone SPOR (Single Point of Referral) and ask for a form.

Telephone: 01534 444440



Please fill out the form and post or email it back to us. Your family or support staff can do this for you if you say it is okay.



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Email: SPOR@health.gov.je



We will send you an appointment letter in the post or call you on your phone.