

RCSLT Conference

17th November 2018



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Choking by Food Thematic Review

- Published February 2018
- Aim was to identify recurring themes, consider regional learning, highlight areas of good practice and to determine if regional actions are required to reduce/prevent reoccurrence of these incidents



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Choking by Food Thematic Review – Key Safety Messages and Actions Regional

Points paraphrased see thematic review for full information

- Public awareness and awareness of staff
- Terminology for food and fluid texture descriptors should be agreed
- A regional approach to agreeing roles, responsibilities and levels of competence and skills required by different groups of staff should be taken.
- Key safety messages from the thematic review should be shared with relevant stakeholders



Choking by Food Thematic Review – Key Safety Messages and Actions - Individuals

- Care plans relating to individual dietary needs should be clear and unambiguous
- Clear mechanisms for the communication of swallowing recommendations to those who are caring directly for individuals
- Individuals who have experienced a deterioration with their swallowing, reviewed and their needs reassessed.



Choking by Food Thematic Review – Key Safety Messages and Actions Individuals

- The needs of individuals with swallowing difficulties should be communicated effectively, particularly at pivotal times such as handover, or if patients/clients move facilities etc. The development of a process for a safety pause ... should be considered.
- When planning menus consideration should be given to food that can carry a higher risk of choking and requirement for necessary modifications or in some cases avoidance.



Choking by Food Thematic Review – Key Safety Messages and Actions- Family/Carer

- Families, carers and visitors (if appropriate) should be made aware if there is any risk of individuals choking and be kept up to date of relevant requirements regarding individual dietary needs.
- Information in an easy to understand format on dysphagia management should be made available for people with swallowing difficulties and their families and carers.



Choking by Food Thematic Review – Key Safety Messages and Actions- Staff

- The training and development needs of staff providing care and services for individuals with swallowing difficulties should be identified and arrangements put in place to meet them.
- Staff/witness support and counselling, should be available for any member of staff or witnesses involved either directly or indirectly in a choking incident.
- To help continuously improve safety in the future, systems should be put in place for the accurate reporting of patient safety incidents involving all patients with dysphagia.

Regional Adult Swallowing Difficulties Steering Group

- Established in September 2017
- It is a group of multidisciplinary and multiagency professionals and organisations
- The aim is to improve safety and quality of life of adults who have dysphagia through the identification and management of eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.



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Regional Adult Swallowing Difficulties Steering Group

- The work of the regional group is being progressed by 4 work streams:
 - Awareness
 - Identification
 - Assessment and Management
 - International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative implementation (IDDSI)



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Work Stream 1 – Awareness

- Chaired by Angela Crocker, SLT and John Toal, Service User
- It will seek to raise the profile of dysphagia in the region amongst the general public – Branding (Logo), Dysphagia Awareness Week, Alert Card
- It will seek to improve the recognition of the signs and symptoms of dysphagia and improve support for those affected by swallowing difficulties



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Work Stream 2 – Identification

- Chaired by Georgina Calwell, SLT and Deirdre McNamee, Nurse Consultant
- Will have a focus on staff training and education needs and what staff require in order to identify dysphagia and appropriately refer to SLT for a full assessment.
- Development of a Skills and Competency Framework, in conjunction with national developments.



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Work Stream 3 – Assessment and Management

- Chaired by Cathy Jordan, SLT and Sandra Aitcheson, Nurse Consultant
- Focus on agreeing an evidence based standardised approach for the assessment and management of adults with dysphagia.
- **Specific focus on;**-assessment protocols, dental and oral hygiene, medication management, food provisions and environment, communication, patient choice and best interest decisions.



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Work Stream 4 – International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative implementation (IDDSI)

- Chaired by Tanya Cuddy, SLT and Naomi Baldwin, Senior Nurse Patient Safety
- Key role in planning and agreeing the safe regional implementation of IDDSI.
- IDDSI have published international standardised terminology and definitions for texture modified foods and thickened liquids for people with dysphagia.



Stakeholder Focus groups

- Nursing homes
- Domiciliary care
- HSC multidisciplinary
- User and carers
- Voluntary agencies



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Stakeholder Engagement

