The RCSLT Dysphagia Training & Competency Framework

What is it?
A document for all RCSLT members who work with people with eating, drinking or swallowing disorders (dysphagia)*
Includes guidance for:
▶ pre-registration dysphagia training including revised curriculum guidelines
▶ post-qualification dysphagia development

Who is it for?
▶ Universities
▶ Students
▶ Assistants
▶ NewlyQualified Practitioners (NQPs)
▶ Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs)
▶ Clinical supervisors
▶ Managers

Why should I use it?
The key benefits for...

Patients
▶ Increased safety
▶ Consistency of care
▶ More competent, confident management of their eating, drinking and swallowing concerns

Students
▶ Acquire comparable knowledge and demonstrable skills
▶ Clinicians more likely to offer dysphagia experience to students on placements

Speech and language therapists
▶ Supports career development
▶ Demonstrates progress made against goals
▶ Identifies future training and development needs
▶ A standardised approach

Managers and supervisors
▶ Improves understanding of SLT role in dysphagia
▶ Supports employment decisions and workforce planning
▶ Provides guidance and a tool to inform supervision and appraisal

How do I use it?
▶ Plot yourself on the framework starting at Level A and work your way through
▶ You must achieve all competencies within a level to be competent at that level
▶ But you can start working on later competencies before all the earlier ones are achieved
▶ Document evidence of your knowledge and competence, giving examples from existing CPD and experience and share with your supervisor to establish your baseline.
▶ Identify future learning needs and set goals for development

I still have questions...
What if I don’t have a supervisor? What if I don’t have all the evidence as I have been practicing for years?

*Supersedes the RCSLT Recommendations for Pre- and Post-registration Dysphagia Education and Training (1999)

Visit the RCSLT website for more information:
www.rcslt.org