



## CHI Videofluoroscopy: Speech and Language Therapy and Radiography Led Clinics

### Information for Referrers & Healthcare Professionals

**What is a Videofluoroscopy?** A Videofluoroscopic Swallow Study (VFSS) is a radiological procedure to examine the oral and pharyngeal phases of the swallow using moving images.

#### Who can refer?

- ✓ A hospital consultant or by an NCHD under the instruction of a consultant.
- ✓ This is a national service so any hospital consultant/team in Ireland can refer.

#### Who cannot refer?

- ✗ Referrals by external SLTs or GPs are not accepted

#### Role of Local SLT:

- ✓ Parents should be adequately informed about what VFSS entails prior to the procedure
- ✓ Make necessary information available to CHI SLT prior to VFSS (SLT preparation form attached).
- ✓ Where possible, it is advisable for the local SLT who manages the child to attend the clinic.

### Suitability for VFSS

<i>Indications</i>	<i>Contraindications</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be reasonably stable medically.</li> <li>• Ideally a patient should be functioning at his/her usual baseline (Arvedson, 1998).</li> <li>• Be awake, alert and hungry (Arvedson 1998).</li> <li>• Have had some recent experience of swallowing food/liquid.</li> <li>• Be able to comply with taking some food/liquid orally i.e. not be completely orally aversive.</li> <li>• Be able to maintain an appropriate position with support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients who are medically unstable, drowsy or agitated.</li> <li>• Patients who are unable to be positioned safely.</li> <li>• Patients with allergies to barium/contrast.</li> <li>• Patients without a clear rationale for assessment or where management is unlikely to change as a result of the VFSS.</li> <li>• Patients who are pregnant.</li> </ul>

### Referral Criteria

1. A **Clinical Feeding, Eating, Drinking and Swallowing (FEDS) assessment must be carried out by a dysphagia trained SLT prior to completion of a VFSS** and the information from this assessment sent to CHI SLT on the VFSS Preparation Form.
2. For all VFSS procedures there must be a clear clinical question to be answered that will not be answered by another assessment method.
3. **VFSS must have the potential to change the management** of the child's FEDS presentation for the referral to be accepted.
4. Ongoing FEDS management is the responsibility of the local SLT/referrer.
5. The purpose of the VFSS needs to be identified.