

Keeping you informed

New Management of Swallowing Difficulties Long-Term Care - Decision Support Tool – Effective May 1st

What's happening?

This Decision Support Tool (DST) will outline the strategies and tools to be utilized by the interprofessional team to identify and safely manage swallowing difficulties and dysphagia in the long-term care (LTC) setting and support person-centered care. Some of the tools included are:

- **Swallowing Difficulties Assessment - Management and Documentation Tool:** This tool's purpose is to assist with the assessment, management and documentation of residents with swallowing concerns by documenting initial findings, safe swallowing strategies that have been implemented and for documenting ongoing management.
- **Swallowing Difficulties Monitoring Tool:** This tool is used to record observed signs and symptoms of swallowing difficulties during mealtimes. Any staff member observing or assisting the resident eating can complete this form.
- Executive endorsement from the Regional Long-Term Care Network

How this may affect you?

Practice changes:

This DST is new. It applies to Health Care Professionals (HCP's) and includes in the LTC setting, nurses (Registered Nurse [RN], Registered Psychiatric Nurse [RPN], Licensed Practical Nurse [LPN]), Health Care Assistants (HCAs), and Allied Health (speech-language pathologists (SLP), occupational therapists (OT), dietitians (RD), physiotherapists [PT], respiratory therapists, rehabilitation assistants (RA), recreation therapists, social workers (SW), music therapists.

- This DST will be released on **May 1st** and applies to all residents within long-term care (LTC) homes in Fraser Health.

Education and implementation:

- Webinars hosted by the Shared Work Team:
 - May 3, 2024: 1300- 1400
 - May 7, 2024: 1300-1400
 - **Teams invites to follow.**

Questions?

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