

MODIFIED BARIUM SWALLOW CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS A MODIFIED BARIUM SWALLOW??

This is a procedure used for assessment of all the stages of the swallowing process. It is useful to assess whether food or drink is going down the wrong way (ie. into your airway), understanding why you might be having difficulty swallowing certain foods or drinks and for providing ideas for treatment.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE ASSESSMENT?

You will be seated in front of an X-Ray machine and asked to swallow small amounts of food and/ or fluid. The food and fluid are mixed with Barium which allows us to see it pass from your mouth to your stomach. Whilst you eat and drink, a video X-Ray is taken to show the swallowing process in motion.

Your treating Speech Pathologist will record the Modified Barium Swallow on CD-Rom so that you can watch the CD-Rom together and discuss the results.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

This varies for each person. You should expect the procedure to take at least 20 minutes.

WHO GOES?

For the procedure, there will be a Speech Pathologist (maybe two if your treating Speech Pathologist also attends), Radiologist and Radiographer. You may also wish to request to have a family member with you who can observe the procedure from another room. Other staff may also be involved if you have special needs, such as assistance with positioning in the chair.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO?

You are required to fast for four hours before the procedure. That includes all food, fluid and medications.

If you are a community client or outpatient, you will need to bring your **Medicare Card** with you, as the procedure is bulk-billed.

HOW DO I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?

Your treating Speech Pathologist will refer you for a Modified Barium Swallow. An appointment will then be organised by the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney Outpatients Coordinator.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

Modified Barium Swallows are carried out in the radiology department at Concord Hospital and sometimes at other acute hospitals such as Royal North Shore Hospital . If you are an inpatient at Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, then you will be taken on the centre's transport bus. If you are a community client or outpatient, then you will need to make your own travel arrangements.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS INVOLVED?

As for all x-ray procedures, you will be exposed to small amounts of radiation. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please speak to your local doctor or Rehabilitation Specialist.

For further information, please contact your treating Speech Pathologist at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney on 02 99807 1144