

BY EMAIL

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Dear Colleague

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL STANDARDISED SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY EATING, DRINKING AND SWALLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDANCE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF PREVENTABLE CHOKING.

Dysphagia NI has developed regionally standardised documentation and guidance, to maximise the safety of people at risk of choking, which has been implemented from the 1 October 2021:-

1. The new standardised Regional Speech and Language Therapy Eating, Drinking and Swallowing Difficulties Recommendations Sheet (REDS); this pivotal patient safety documentation is aimed at all healthcare staff and is key to supporting the needs of people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.
2. Regional guidance for staff - Staff roles and responsibilities in supporting the safety of people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties
3. A Be Safety Aware with Food and Drink visitor information poster for display in public areas of care settings to promote awareness and safety.

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing

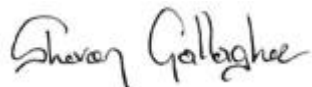
The staff roles and responsibilities in supporting the safety of people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties guidance, and Be Safety Aware with Food and Drink Poster has been shared in hard copy to Trusts, Independent Care Home providers and Day Care Settings across Northern Ireland. The REDS has been implemented as of the 1 October 2021.

We would ask you to disseminate this letter to GP Practices, GP out of hour's services, dispensing GPs and Community Pharmacists for information to raise awareness of those with dysphagia.

A special edition Learning Matters Newsletter, based on Choking, is available at the following link [Learning Matters - Issue 18 \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/learning-matters-18)

Thank you for your ongoing support in maximizing the safety of people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

Yours Sincerely



Sharon Gallagher
Chief Executive, HSCB



Aidan Dawson
Chief Executive, PHA

cc Rodney Morton, Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions
Michelle Tennyson, Assistant Director for Allied Health Professions, PPI & PCE.
Denise Boulter, Assistant Director Nursing, Quality, Safety and Patient Experience (Interim)
Jennifer Keane, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, Department of Health