



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE REFERRAL CRITERIA

Speech and Language Therapists are HCPC registered lead experts in managing speech, language, communication and swallowing impairments. The role of the speech and language therapist is to enable people to function to the best of their ability and help manage the risk of harm from these impairments. They work closely with parents, carers and other professionals, such as teachers, nurses, occupational therapists, dieticians and doctors to achieve this. To do this Speech and Language Therapy operates a tiered service.

Referral forms for Children can be found on the speech and language therapy website [Children's Services - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](http://Children's Services - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (nhs.wales))

- All referrals must clearly indicate the **functional difficulties** that are **significantly** impacting upon ability to communicate or to swallow.
- You must complete **every section** of the referral form. Incomplete referrals will delay our ability to check if the referral is appropriate.
- Incomplete referrals **will be returned** to the referrer to complete in full.

REFERRALS FOR CHILDREN

To help us direct the child to the right person please provide the following information.

Pre-School Referral **ESSENTIAL Supporting Information:**

- Schedule of Growing Skills (SOGS), or Foundation Phase Profile (FPP) and/or other Nursery Base-line or Development Checklist

School Age Referral **ESSENTIAL Supporting Information:**

- Foundation Phase Profile (FPP), Teaching Talking Language records or profiles, NFER tests, CAT scores and/or Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Educational Psychology Report.

Additional Supporting Information if available:

- Copy of Individual Education Plan (IEP) demonstrating that the school has already attempted to address the child's Speech & Language difficulties (essential where problems are school-based)
- Wellcomm Screening Tool information
- Medical or neurological assessment and/or diagnosis
- Communication Intervention Toolkit checklist

Referrals for children and young people in Special Schools in Gwent

All referrals to the speech and language therapy service for children and young people attending one of the special schools in Gwent need to come via the Communication Forum held in school. Referral forms must be completed fully indicating functional difficulties that are significantly impacting on the child.

It is the responsibility of the referrer to request parental consent prior to making the referral and to explain the reason for the referral. Referrals of children whose communication support needs centre more on psychological and behavioural issues should be directed to CAMHS at [Child and Adolescent Mental Health \(CAMHS\) - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](http://Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (nhs.wales))



Consent to referral for ALL children must be AGREED by parents/carers.

REFERRALS FOR ADULTS

Essential information that must be given:

- referrals will be accepted when there is evidence of an actual or perceived change in communication and/or swallowing status
- the patient has sufficient level of consciousness to tolerate assessment and is medically stable
- the patient is able to co-operate fully with assessment
- when swallowing difficulties are suspected the adult patient must be able to sit upright for 30 minutes and tolerate oral secretions

REFERRALS NOT ACCEPTED

Referrals for ALL Speech and Language Therapy services will not be accepted when

- the form is incomplete (Children)
- there is no patient/parental/guardian consent (Children)
- there is no supporting evidence as outlined above
- the patient has previously received speech and language therapy treatment or guidance that still applies
- the patient is on a palliative care pathway
- the speech, language or communication disorder has no impact on functional daily living
- speech and language therapy cannot manage the functional impact or reduce risk of harm
- there is difficulty with a second language only
- the communication difficulty in adults arises from hearing impairment, tardive dyskinesia, developmental disorders
- there are literacy/dyslexia difficulties in isolation
- there is selective mutism in isolation
- cognitive impairment limits the ability to change communication status
- there is a voice problem and the individual has not seen ENT (unless neurological)

ALL referrals for suspected swallowing difficulties will not be accepted when:

- the swallowing difficulty is being managed appropriately
- there are problems with saliva management, oesophageal stage dysphagia, globus, laryngospasm, or chronic cough/gag reflex in isolation
- there are problems with poor nutrition/refusal to eat/anorexia nervosa or primarily behavioural feeding
- there is difficulty swallowing tablets where other oral intake is normal
- intervention would cause ethical dilemma, e.g., non oral feeding method in end stage disease. The process needs management by medical lead.

Adults with learning disabilities should be referred to Learning Disability Directorate -
ABB.LDHealthLiaison@wales.nhs.uk



Adults with Huntington’s Disease should be referred to the Huntington’s Disease Team on telephone number 01495 332157.

Checklist before sending a referral (Children):

Check your referral meets the service referral criteria

Check the referral is not in the ‘not accepted’ section

Make sure you have clearly indicated the effect the communication, speech, language and/or swallowing difficulties are having on the person’s ability to function; indicate where there is a **significant impact**.

Make sure all **ESSENTIAL** information is attached to your referral (see Referral Criteria)

Further information:

Please visit our website which has information to help you decide if you should refer to the Speech and Language Therapy service. Referral forms for and Children are available to download and print from our website [Children's Services - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](http://www.nhs.uk/childrens-services)

For all enquiries please contact:

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