

Head and Neck/Speech and Language Therapy

Advice for patients using a speaking valve

Below is a list of potential issues that may arise with your valve and the solutions which may help you to manage them.

Please note: SLT is Speech and Language Therapy

Issue or Problem	Solution
You are coughing when eating or drinking and on checking your valve it is leaking	Clean your valve thoroughly. If this does not resolve the leak, then put your plug in to prevent leakage when you are eating and drinking. Contact SLT to make a valve change appointment.
Your valve becomes dislodged	Immediately place your dilator into the hole that the valve has been dislodged from. Contact SLT. If you wear a stoma button/tube to keep your stoma open, leave this out. If you cannot insert a dilator or equivalent into the hole or your speaking valve has fallen into your airway, please make your way to A&E for advice.
The puncture becomes surrounded by raised/thickened skin tissue	Contact SLT for advice
Your voice quality deteriorates or your voice has become more difficult than usual	Clean your valve to ensure there is no debris. If this does not improve your voice, contact SLT
Your valve appears too long	Contact SLT for advice
You notice other problems relating to your valve that are unusual for you	Contact SLT for advice



Patient Information

The Speech and Language Therapy team are available Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm. If you have any problems with your valve please call to make an appointment. We may not be able to see you if you arrive unexpectedly without an appointment. You can also text our landline number and we will call you back as soon as possible.

We operate a drop in clinic on Mondays between 1-2pm which you can attend without an appointment.

Tel: 024 7696 6449

Once an appointment has been made, please come to Clinic 10, Outpatients, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW).

For Emergency cases please go to your nearest A&E or if appropriate call 999.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6449 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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