

## **Head and Neck Cancer/ Speech and Language Therapy**

# **Video-fluoroscopy examination to assess Laryngectomy voicing difficulties**

Your Speech and Language Therapist or doctor has referred you for further investigation of your voice. This means attending a video-fluoroscopy clinic which is held once a month at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW).

The Speech and Language Therapist may like to assess your valve prior to the appointment to ensure it is not leaking. This will be advised in your appointment letter if required.

### **What is a video-fluoroscopy?**

A video-fluoroscopy is a moving X-ray which allows us to watch as you swallow and can provide information about the cause of your difficulty.

### **What happens in the clinic?**

The Video-fluoroscopy clinic is held in the X-ray suite, ground floor, UHCW. Several patients may be assessed during the session so you may have to wait a short time. When you arrive at the X-ray Department please book in at reception.

The examination will be carried out by two Speech and Language Therapists and a Radiographer with an extended scope of practice or a Consultant



## Patient Information

Radiologist. The Speech and Language Therapist who regularly liaises with you may also be present.

You will be called into the X-ray suite when the team are ready to assess you. You will be introduced to the team and then asked to sit on a seat inside the X-ray equipment.

When the equipment has been set up, you will be asked to swallow a drink with a type of barium tracer (a special liquid that shows up on X-ray) in it. This will coat the throat structures and will be recorded.

Once the structures are coated, you will be asked to try to voice. The Speech and Language Therapist will give you directions on what to say and for how long.

### **How long will it take?**

The procedure will take no more than a few minutes. However, you should allow an hour for your appointment to allow for waiting time. You will be asked to sign a form to give your consent for this procedure.

### **Can I eat and drink before the examination?**

Unless you have been advised otherwise, you can eat and drink as normal before your appointment. If you are currently feeding through a tube, you can take your feeds as normal up until your appointment time. It is important that you inform the Speech and Language Therapist of any food allergies you might have.

### **What happens after the clinic?**

You can return to the ward or go home immediately after the appointment. You may be given some basic information after the procedure. However, this is not always possible. The Speech and Language Therapists will meet to look at your video recording carefully and your results and a report will be sent to your referrer, GP and Speech and Language Therapist. Follow-up will then be arranged as appropriate.

## Patient Information

**If you have any mobility problems or if you have any further questions, please contact the Speech and Language Therapy Department on 02476 966 449.**

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

### **Document History**

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