

# Head and Neck Cancer Speech and Language Therapy

## Information for Valve Users

Presently all valve users at University Hospital Coventry (UHCW) have indwelling valves which need to be changed by a member of the Head and Neck team.

As part of the new Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service for valve users, we are able to offer valve users training to self manage the changing of their valves if they wish.

Valve users will now be offered the opportunity to learn how to use exdwelling valves which can be changed by the individual. Each valve user will be assessed individually for appropriateness if they wish to try self changing

### Indwelling valves

These valves are only changed by trained professionals.

<b>Benefits:</b>	<b>Difficulties:</b>
Valves are changed by a trained Head and Neck team member	Valves can only be changed when a trained member of the Head and Neck Team is available.
Valve changing techniques do not need to be taught	Valves have to be changed in hospital
Minimal user input into valve maintenance	Valves can't be removed for easier cleaning and maintenance
Access to clinical expertise if needed	Unable to change easily if client is abroad
Client receives regular monitoring from Head & Neck Team	Less Autonomy: reliant on hospital hours and staff availability



## Patient Information

### Exdwelling Valves

These valves can be changed by the client.

<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Difficulties</b>
Valve can be changed easily and regularly	Training required
Not being reliant on professionals	Less contact with Head and Neck Team
Not being tied to hospital visits	Can come out more easily
Easier to clean valve	Reduced monitoring
Valves can last longer as are regularly cleaned and checked	Not suitable for everyone.
Contact with Head and Neck team as required by patient	Increases self caring and responsibility for the client

### Further Information

Please contact the Head & Neck Speech and Language therapy team for more information on 024 7696 6449.

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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