

## Speech and Language Therapy

# Advice for patients using a speaking valve

### Coughing when eating or drinking and your valve is leaking

If 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:

- put your plug in to prevent leakage when you are eating and drinking.
- use a thickening powder in your drinks if the team has supplied this.
- contact us on 024 7696 6449 to make a valve change appointment.

### Valve becomes dislodged

If your valve becomes dislodged, **immediately place your dilator or balloon catheter into the hole that the valve has been dislodged from.** Contact us on 024 7696 6449.

- 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, go to A&E for advice.



## Patient Information

### **Voice quality worsens or voice has become more difficult**

If your voice quality worsens or your voice has become more difficult than usual, clean your valve to make sure there is no debris.

If this does not improve your voice, contact us on 024 7696 6449.

### **Other problems**

Contact the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) team for advice on 024 7696 6449 if:

- the puncture becomes surrounded by raised, thickened skin tissue.
- your valve appears too long.
- you notice other problems relating to your valve that are unusual for you.

### **Speech and Language Therapy team**

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 024 7696 6449 to make an appointment. You can also text this number and we'll call you back as soon as possible.

### **Appointments**

We may not be able to see you if you arrive unexpectedly without an appointment.

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.

## Patient Information

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.

### Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



#### Document History

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