

Population Served:

Birth to 19 years of age

Services are provided for children and youth with:

- significant feeding/mealtime and oral motor challenges
- chronic upper respiratory problems
- poor weight gain and/or failure to thrive
- needs related to their transition from tube to oral feeding

Regions Served:

Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands

Referrals are accepted from health care professionals, families, physicians, community agencies and / or therapists.

To Refer a Child to the Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Service

Please contact Child and Family Rehab. Services Intake Office:

Queen Alexandra Centre for
Children's Health
Child and Family Rehab Services
2400 Arbutus Road
Victoria, BC V8N 1V7

Phone: 250-519-6763
Fax: 250-519-6918

Vision

Optimum, health and safety for children and youth with nutrition, feeding and/or swallowing concerns

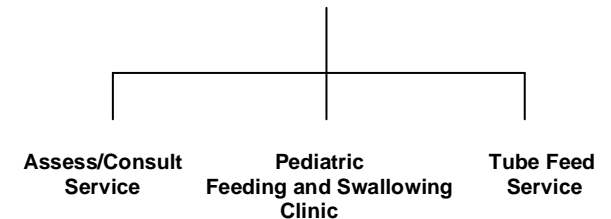
Mission

The Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Service is an interdisciplinary team working in collaboration with families and community partners to:

- support best practice in assessment and treatment of children and youth with feeding, swallowing and nutrition concerns
- provide education **for** families and partners
- contribute to current knowledge in order to support optimum, safe nutritional health for clients



PEDIATRIC FEEDING AND SWALLOWING SERVICE



Vancouver Island Health
Authority
Queen Alexandra Centre
for Children's Health

2400 Arbutus Road
Victoria BC V8N 1V7

ASSESSMENT/CONSULT SERVICE

Children using this service may be registered with the Early Intervention Program or School Age Program at QACCH. Families/ direct team may be looking for support with:

- oral motor development for successful feeding/mealtime experiences
- sensory preferences that affect eating
- transitioning from tube to oral feeding
- mealtime and feeding difficulties associated with medical conditions such as GERD

Infants, children and youth referred to this service, generally do not require consultation with the Pediatrician/Medical Advisor or a Videofluoroscopy Swallow Study (VFSS).

Team may consist of:

- Registered Dietitian
- Registered Speech-Language Pathologist
- Registered Nurse
- Occupational Therapist

Services provided include:

- Assessment of feeding/mealtime and swallowing difficulties
- Support with transitioning from tube to oral feeding
- Consultation or mentoring with families, caregivers and community professionals
- Educational resources for families and community professionals

PEDIATRIC FEEDING AND SWALLOWING CLINIC

(formerly the Swallowing Disorders Clinic)

Children using these services have a suspected or recognized swallowing and/or feeding disorder and require a more in depth assessment by an inter-disciplinary team.

Team may consist of:

- Pediatrician/medical advisor
- Occupational Therapist
- Registered Dietitian
- Registered Nurse
- Registered Speech-Language Pathologist

Common reasons for referral:

- Coughing, choking or gagging while eating or drinking or soon after a meal
- Multiple swallows with a mouthful of food
- Chronic or persistent vomiting/reflux
- Increased congestion in chest after eating or drinking
- History of frequent chest problems
- Difficulty gaining weight related to feeding and swallowing
- Poor coordination of the muscles involved in eating or breathing
- Significant and unresolved mealtime challenges

Service may consist of:

- Family/caregiver interview
- Mealtime and oral motor evaluation
- Nutritional consultation

- Videofluoroscopy swallow study
- Consultation with a pediatrician
- Family conference
- Family education
- Referral to other services as needed

TUBE FEEDING SERVICE

This service is for all children who are fed by tube. Children who are fed by tube require ongoing follow-up. This service is only available to those living in the south island region. Children living in central and the north island are typically followed by a community Registered Dietitian and Registered Nurse.

Team may consist of:

- Registered Dietitian
- Registered Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Registered Speech-Language Pathologist

Services provided may include:

- Nutritional assessment and consultation
- Nursing consultation
- Assessment and consultation for pre-feeding, feeding and mealtime success
- Education and training for community professionals and families
- Support with transitioning from tube feeding to oral intake