

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

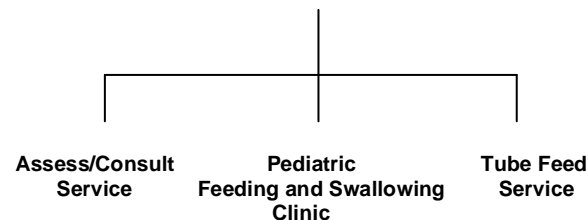
Mission

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

- A) support best practice in assessment and treatment of children and youth with feeding, swallowing and nutrition concerns
- B) provide education for families and partners
- C) 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