

### Inpatient Speech-Language Pathology Service at MGH - Pediatrics

Speech-Language Pathologists support all Pediatric floors including the NICU, PICU, Ellison 17 and Ellison 18, and Special Care Nursery.

#### **What is SLP?**

- Speech-Language Pathologists support a child's feeding, swallowing, speech, language and cognitive-linguistic skills. We work together with families and the multi-disciplinary team to develop an optimal plan of care and facilitate a safe discharge.

#### **Exams provided:**

- Clinical swallow assessment
- Feeding Team Consult (SLP/OT/RD)
- Cognitive-Linguistic Assessment
- Speech Assessment
- AAC/communication Assessment
- Video swallow study (VFSS) *performed in radiology*
- Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) *performed at bedside for patients  $\geq 15$  years of age who cannot participate in VFSS due to medical acuity*

#### **Availability:**

- SLP is available on all Pediatric units (Ellison 17/18), PICU (Bigelow 6), NICU (Blake 10), and Special Care Nursery (Ellison 13)
- 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday
- **Please Note:** No weekend/holiday coverage is currently provided. In urgent circumstances with new consults, please page the on-call pager and staffing options can be discussed.

### **Indications for Inpatient Pediatric SLP consult:**

- **Failure To Thrive (FTT)** *with suspected oral-motor-sensory component or dysphagia.*
- **Feeding difficulty** *without failure to thrive (ex IDM & NAS infants)*
- **Known or suspected dysphagia (swallowing dysfunction)** *common diagnoses that usually have a feature of dysphagia: Downs Syndrome, Seizure disorders, laryngomalacia, Cerebral Palsy, Genetic Disorders such as Angelman's, Pierre Robin or 22Q11 deletion, etc.*
- **Recurrent respiratory infections** *with no known etiology, concerning for 'silent' aspiration/dysphagia*
- **Prolonged or multiple intubations**, *increased risk for 'silent' aspiration*
- **Acquired brain injury**, *for cognitive-linguistic assessment and school re-entry support*
- **Communication support** *for patients who cannot verbally communicate in the setting of medical status (trach/vent, dysarthria, etc) and benefit from communication boards, etc*
- **Unintelligible speech** *due to brain injury or dev. delay*
- **Language delay or disorder** *due to brain injury or dev. delay*
- **Continuity of care** *followed by SLP outpatient*

**Referrals:** SLP consults should be ordered in EPIC. Please be as specific as possible to indicate reason for consult in "Comments."

- Examples: "FTT, feeding assessment." "Concussion, cognitive-linguistic assessment."

#### **Contact:**

- Please check Care Team in EPIC for a patient's assigned SLP. We are available via personal pager, on-call pager and Voalte during service hours.
- For urgent weekend consults please page the Pedi SLP On-Call pager: 24507