

Managing paediatric feeding disorders via telepractice: what's being done and what services are needed?

Madeline Raatz, Professor Elizabeth Ward & Dr Jeanne Marshall

BACKGROUND: The delivery of paediatric feeding services via telepractice is a new and novel area of practice with limited evidence. To date, no known studies have investigated clinician or parent perspectives of this service delivery model.

AIMS: To investigate

1. Current telepractice use for paediatric feeding service delivery
2. Speech pathologist (SP) and parent interest in telepractice feeding services
3. Enablers/barriers to telepractice service delivery/uptake

METHODS: Mixed methods design with 2 participant groups:

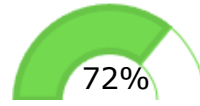
1. **84 Australian speech pathologists** completed an online survey
2. **27 parents accessing feeding services** at the Queensland Children's Hospital completed an individual semi-structured interview

- **SP benefits:** increased access to clinical support/training, potential to increase service provision, reduced distance/travel, natural assessment environment, family centred care
- **SP concerns/barriers:** safety/efficacy, clinical governance and support, consistent access to technology/equipment

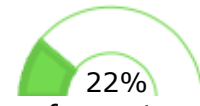
- **Parent benefits:** reduced travel, reduced time off work/school & natural feeding environment
- **Parent concerns/barriers:** safety/efficacy, behaviour management & rapport building



No. of SPs offering telepractice feeding services (n = 17)



No. of SPs interested in offering telepractice services (n = 59)



No. of parents **not** interested in telepractice feeding services (n = 6)

CONCLUSIONS: Both speech pathologists and families are interested in accessing or delivering paediatric feeding services via telepractice however there are key concerns that need to be addressed prior to widespread clinical uptake.



madeline.raatz@uqconnect.edu.au