

Avoiding critical consequences of dysphagia: A collaboration between speech pathology and nursing staff in mental health

Presented by

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Acknowledgements

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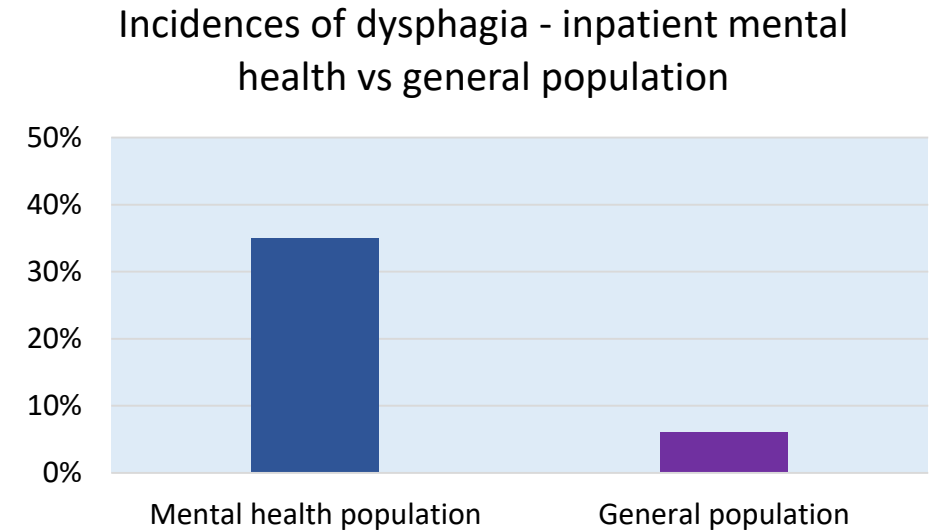
Westmead Speech Pathology Department
Western Sydney Local Health District



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

Background

- Critical incidents identified
- Limited awareness of dysphagia
- Nil funded speech pathology position
- Higher incidence of dysphagia - mental health



Regan, J., Snowman, R. & Walsh, I. (2006) Prevalence of Dysphagia in Acute and Community Mental Health Settings

Aim

- To increase knowledge and awareness of dysphagia
- To increase appropriate referrals to outpatient speech pathology

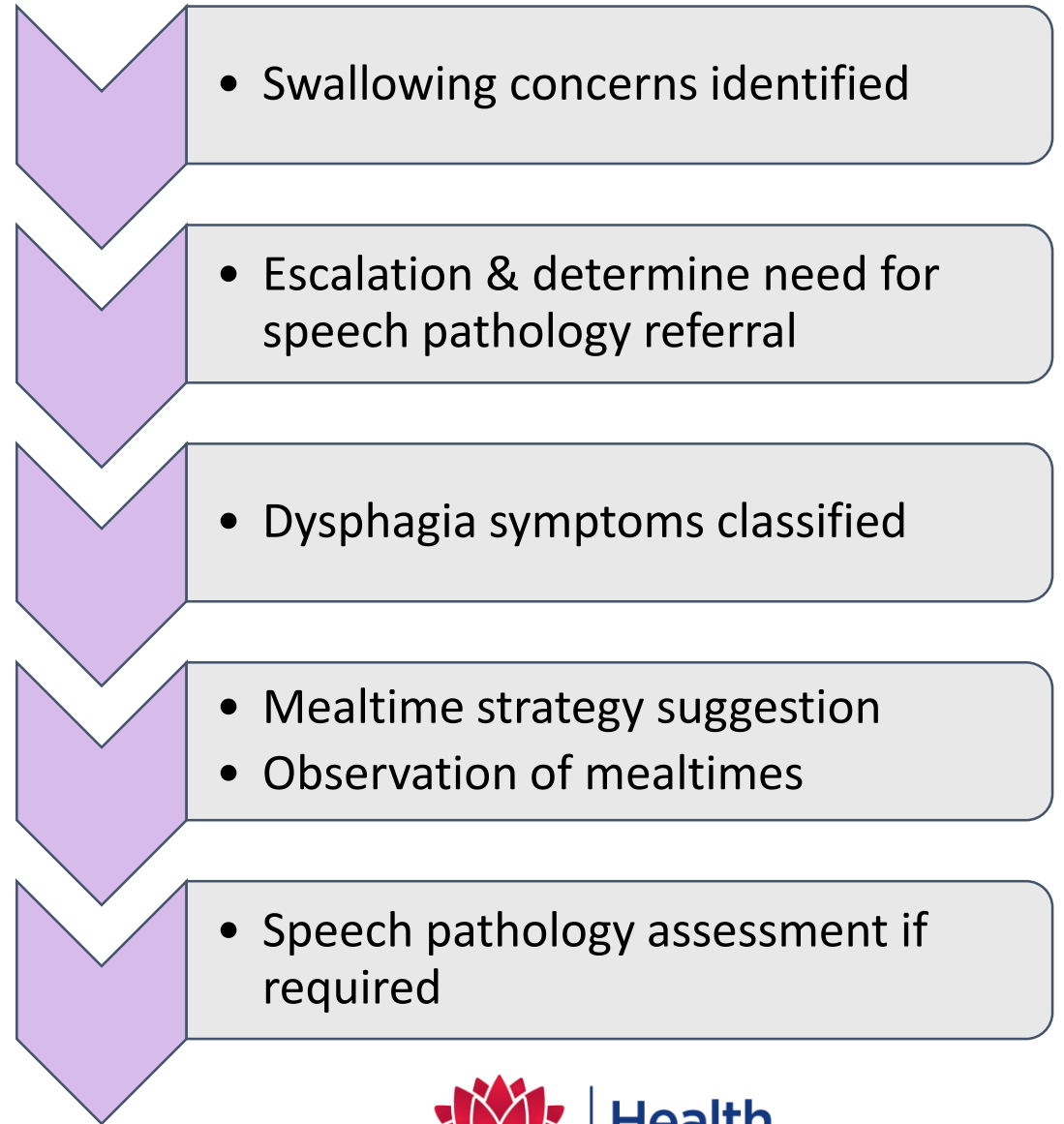


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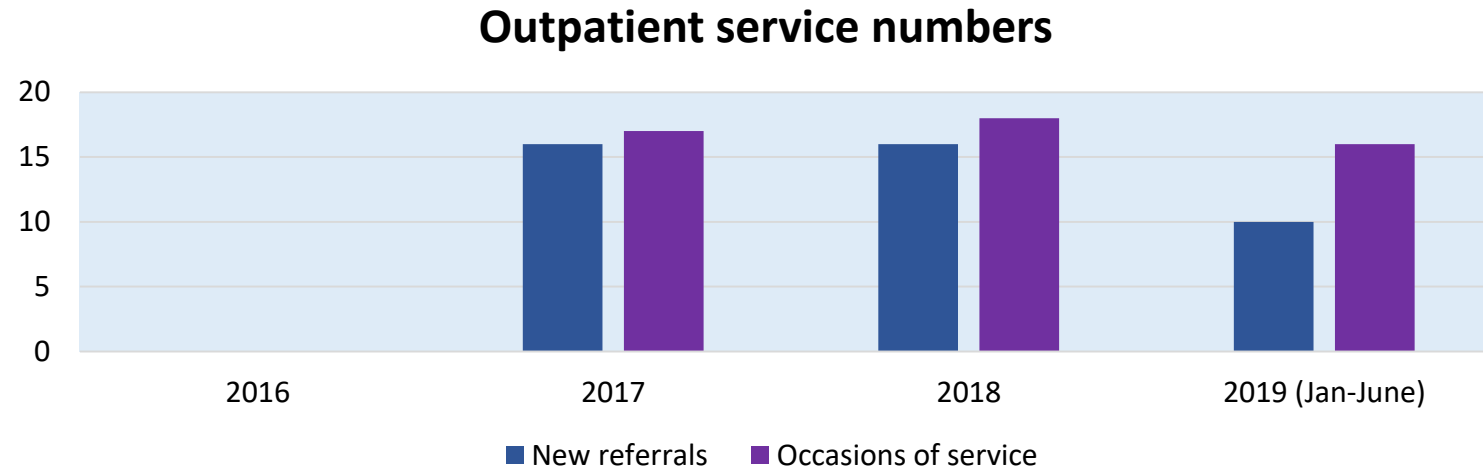
Method

Symptoms identified

- Coughing or choking
- Recent change to medical status with new onset dysphagia
- Dysphagia due to change in medications
- Impulsivity at meals and rapid eating
- Talking whilst eating
- Impaired breathing during meals
- Difficulty chewing
- Taking large mouthfuls of food
- Complaining food is dry



Results



- All referrals were appropriate
- Nil new critical incidents
- Great relationships with mental health staff

Next steps

- Continued education and support
- Continue to advocate for dedicated funding for a speech pathologist