

Allied health clinical leader

Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES)

Drivers for change

- Need to improve ear, nose and throat outpatient services for patients with dysphagia
 - reduction of Category 2 and Category 3 waiting lists
 - improve access and patient journeys

Key elements of role

Two models of care

1. Speech Pathology-led FEES clinics with the speech pathologist completing both the endoscopist role and leading the FEES procedure.
2. Joint FEES clinic, with the medical officer completing the endoscopist role and the speech pathologist leading and interpreting the FEES procedure.

Evidence of impact

- Speech pathology led FEES clinics implemented at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, The Townsville Hospital and Gold Coast University Hospital.
 - Gold Coast report a savings of 6-7 hours per month of medical officer time.
- Joint FEES clinics have been implemented at Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, Cairns Hospital, Rockhampton Hospital and Logan hospital

Outcomes

- Up to 32% increase in use of instrumental assessment to guide dysphagia management
- Reduced duplication of patient attendance at both speech pathology dysphagia assessment and ENT assessment
- Increased reliability and sustainability of FEES services
- Delivery of regular FEES Introductory workshops for knowledge and skills for speech pathologists