

Good Samaritan Hospital  
Emergency Department  
Competency Validation

Water Swallow Screening Test (“Dysphagia Screen”)

The following skills were validated:

Skill	Pass
Verbalizes understanding of reason for performing water swallow screening test	
Verifies patient is alert and able to sit upright	
Demonstrates proper method of performing test <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 mL of water in cup, no lid or straw</li><li>• Repeat X 2 (total of 3 times)</li><li>• 25 mL of water in cup, patient holds</li><li>• Start normal feeding <u>with caution</u>; diet consistency consistent with baseline</li></ul>	
Verbalizes warning signs that patient is at risk for aspiration	
Verbalizes procedure to take if patient fails test (maintains patient NPO, SLP referral)	
Locates green sticker on chart and documents appropriately	

The learner noted below is certified to perform water swallow screening tests (“dysphagia screens”).

Learner: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Learner signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Validator signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Symptoms of Oral/Pharyngeal Dysphagia

### Overt

- Coughing
- Choking
- Pain with swallowing
- Throat clearing
- Feeling of food stuck in the throat
- Nasal regurgitation
- Difficulties chewing

### Subtle

- Shortness of breath or decreased oxygen levels after intake
- Changes in vocal quality
- Slowed rate of eating
- Changes in dietary habits
- Difficulties managing saliva
- Developing a fever after meals
- Unexplained infiltrates on chest x-ray
- Increased lung sounds after intake

**Dysphagia Screen Completed**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

At: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

PASS

FAIL

**Dysphagia Screen Not Completed**

Patient to remain NPO

The Water Swallow Screening Test is carried out by Physician or Physician's Assistant within 24 hours of admission. If patient fails, the patient is made NPO and a referral is made to the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP). The RN should continue to monitor patient swallowing status by completing the screening.

