

Children's Hospital Of Wisconsin

Feeding, Swallowing and Nutrition Program Referral Guideline

The **Feeding, Swallowing and Nutrition Program** is an interdisciplinary team that evaluates and treats children between 1 year to 12 years old who have failure to thrive, a feeding disorder, oral and sensory problems, and/or a swallowing disorder.

Conditions treated within the **Feeding, Swallowing and Nutrition Program** include but are not limited to:

- Feeding skill-based concerns
- Behavioral feeding issues
- Poor growth
- Delayed advance of diet
- Limited variety of food accepted
- Food restriction or aversion after choking episode

Conditions not treated within the **Feeding, Swallowing and Nutrition Program** include but are not limited to:

- Patients under 12 months of age (refer to Speech-Feeding)
- Patients that have feeding skill-based as only concern (refer to Speech-Feeding)
- Eating disorders (refer to Adolescent Medicine)
- Patients who cannot tolerate enteral feeds into the stomach (refer to Gastroenterology)
- Failure to thrive or inadequate weight gain as only concern (refer to Gastroenterology)
- Concerns with overeating, sneaking and/or hiding food

Evaluations are completed by a **physician, a behavioral psychologist, a registered dietitian, a speech-language pathologist** and a **nurse**. Here is what a patient/family can expect from an appointment with the Feeding, Swallowing and Nutrition team:

- Families will be asked to share a history with the team by filling out forms prior to their appointment. The team will then review the information and create a preliminary plan for treatment.
- During the patient's evaluation appointment, the child will be observed eating a meal by the team of specialists.
- The family will meet with the physician to discuss any medical needs or medical workup that may need to be completed.
- The interdisciplinary team will develop a customized treatment plan for the patient. This can include outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, intensive inpatient treatment and/or a referral to another specialty for additional treatment.
- We do not admit children directly into our intensive outpatient or intensive inpatient programs without an initial team evaluation appointment.

Referral process for the **Feeding, Swallowing and Nutrition Program**

