

Videofluoroscopy (VFSS)

Information for GPs



Videofluoroscopy swallow study (VFSS) is a specialist service offered at Ramsay Health Plus Hollywood (RHP). VFSS is widely considered to be the gold standard of assessment for oropharyngeal dysphagia and is conducted by speech pathologists with advanced training in dysphagia assessment and management.

A VFSS is a modified barium swallow examination that provides a dynamic view of anatomy and physiology during swallowing to enable analyses of the oral and pharyngeal phases of swallowing.

Benefits of VFSS:

- Objectively determine aspiration risk
- Guide safe food and fluid consistency recommendations
- Establish the effectiveness of compensatory swallow strategies
- Enable targeted rehabilitation planning

Clinical Indications for a VFSS:

- Inconclusive findings from clinical swallow examination
- Repeated chest infections with suspected aspiration
- Risk of silent aspiration
- As a baseline measure for progressive neurological diseases such as Parkinson's Disease, MND and MS
- For investigation of structural causes of dysphagia
- To direct swallow rehabilitation planning

Referral Process and Costs

Referral process:

A medical referral is required for VFSS in the form of a referral letter addressed to RHP.

Patients referred for a VFSS will require an initial clinical swallow assessment with a speech pathologist to assess patient suitability for the procedure, and to guide selection of trial materials and rehabilitation strategies for assessment within the VFSS examination.

Referrals can be emailed to rhp.hollywood@ramsayhealth.com.au or mailed to the address below.

Fees and Rebates:

- There are two cost components for a VFSS at Ramsay Health Plus: Radiology and RHP Speech Pathology
- For eligible patients, a portion of the radiological fee may be reimbursed by Medicare
- For patients with private health cover, a portion of the speech pathology fee may be claimable, depending on the person's level of cover. Patients are advised to check their cover and out of pocket costs before proceeding with the VFSS
- DVA Gold card holders are able to access VFSS with no out of pocket cost. White card holders require an eligibility check



Hollywood Private Hospital

Ramsay Health Plus

Verdun Street (via Entrance 6) NEDLANDS WA 6009

Ph: 08 9346 6932 | Fax 08 93467035

rhp.hollywood@ramsayhealth.com.au

