

Interdisciplinary Feeding Team

An Interdisciplinary Feeding Team is a service for infants and children with feeding and swallowing difficulties and their families. It is comprised of a group of professionals specialised in the assessment and management of feeding difficulties.

Interdisciplinary Feeding Team can include a range of health professionals including:

- Speech Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Dietician
- Psychologist
- Lactation Consultant
- Allied Health Assistant

These professionals work together with the child's referring doctor or medical specialist. Other professionals such as paediatric gastroenterologists, respiratory physicians, physiotherapists, etc., are consulted as required.

The team focuses on helping infants and children with complex feeding issues.

What types of interventions are offered by an Interdisciplinary Feeding Team?

Treatment may involve any of the following:

- Positioning advice for feeding
- Sensory preparation for meals
- Exercises to improve oral motor skills for feeding
- Techniques to improve oral sensation and oral hypersensitivity
- Techniques to assist chewing, swallowing and / or drinking
- Texture modification of food and fluids to assist swallowing
- Advice regarding utensils
- Behaviour modification strategies to manage food refusal, avoidance and / or increase oral intake

Where can I find an Interdisciplinary Feeding Team?

Interdisciplinary feeding Teams are located in many Hospitals in the Greater Metropolitan Area and larger centres in Queensland. These include:

- Royal Children's Hospital
- Mater Children's Hospital
- Nambour Hospital
- Logan Hospital
- Townsville Hospital

MBS for infants and children is available at specialist paediatric services. Each service has its own referral pathways. Please refer to the [Speech Pathology Summary Sheet on MBS](#) for further information

Royal Children's Hospital

Who Can Refer To The Interdisciplinary Feeding Team?

The feeding team requires a referral from a medical practitioner based at the Royal Children's Hospital. Referrals should be directed to the RCH Interdisciplinary Feeding Team.

For further information contact:

Royal Children's Hospital Speech Pathology Department
Level 4, Coles Building, Herston Road HERSTON 4029
Phone: 3636 8508 Fax: 3636 1978
RCH-speech@health.qld.gov.au

Mater Children's Hospital

Who can refer to the Interdisciplinary feeding Team?

The Mater Feeding and Swallowing Service accept referrals from General Practitioners and medical specialists.

For further information contact:

Rachel McCullagh (FSS Co-ordinator)
Speech Pathology Department
Level 3
Mater Children's Hospital
Raymond Terrace,
South Brisbane QLD 4101
Phone. 3163 6000, Fax. 3163 2442
Email: Rachel.McCullagh@mater.org.au

Further Information:

Please refer to the [Feeding Difficulties: Background Information Summary Sheet](#) available through the OT section of the Paediatric Allied Health Clinical Education Hub