

Advanced Practice Summary Report

Project title	Development of a Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) at point of care.
Health service	St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM).
Project aim	Development of a Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) at point of care at SVHM.
Key outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and implemented local policy guideline for FEES in the inpatient setting – at 'point of care'. • Two staff members have undertaken FEES training and have been credentialed to use FEES at SVHM. • Train the trainer program has been finalised, reviewed and implemented. • Ongoing training of speech pathologists working in acute and subacute settings (2-3 staff members being trained at any one time). • Successful application to conduct research in retrospective and prospective audit of FEES to compare swallowing outcomes with the introduction of a FEES service at the point of care (versus clinic only model). Data collection is complete. Reporting of outcomes in 2018. • Since implementation in August 2015, 82 bedside or inpatient FEES have been conducted. The average wait time is 5 hours from referral to instrumental assessment. Prior to implementation, the average wait time was 2 days. • Daily access to FEES has resulted in earlier objective assessment and diagnosis of dysphagia. This has had a positive impact on patient flow e.g. earlier transfer to subacute sites or discharge home with outpatient follow up.
Total investment	<p>Funding provided plus in-kind support: \$80,169</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding costs included: Staffing costs and capital equipment costs • In-kind support costs included: in-kind staffing contribution and consumables
Resources available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEES competency development and training package