

# Key messages aimed at improving the care of people with Parkinson's disease and swallowing difficulties whilst in hospital

## MESSAGE 1. DOCUMENT THE SWALLOW STATUS OF ALL PATIENTS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE AT THE POINT OF REFERRAL TO HOSPITAL



12/25 respondents to the online patient survey indicated that **problems with eating, drinking or swallowing medication**, while in hospital, were **not taken seriously by the healthcare team**

83/277 (30%) patients had **dysphagia when presenting to hospital**

20/79 sets of notes of patients who were **known to have dysphagia did not contain information relating to dysphagia**

## MESSAGE 2. SCREEN PATIENTS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE FOR SWALLOWING DIFFICULTIES AT ADMISSION



30/409 (7.3%) patients had a **history of aspiration pneumonia** prior to their admission

96/449 (21.4%) patients had **indicators of dysphagia on admission**. The most common indicators were difficult or slow chewing and swallowing and coughing or choking

287/479 (59.9%) patients had their ability to continue with normal diet and fluid intake, which is an **indicator of dysphagia**, assessed at admission.

## MESSAGE 3. REFER PATIENTS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE WHO HAVE SWALLOWING DIFFICULTIES (OR WHO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH COMMUNICATION) TO SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY



51/209 (24.4%) patients were **referred to speech and language therapy** following swallow screening **on arrival** at hospital. The case reviewers were of the opinion that **a further 36/132 (27.3%) patients should have been referred**

96/377 (25.5%) patients were **referred to speech and language therapy on admission**, and in 87 patients this was for dysphagia

Case reviewers indicated there was **a delay in referral to speech and language therapy in 25/96 patients**

## MESSAGE 4. NOTIFY THE SPECIALIST PARKINSON'S DISEASE SERVICE (HOSPITAL AND/OR COMMUNITY) WHEN A PATIENT WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE IS ADMITTED, IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DETERIORATION OR PROGRESSION OF THEIR CLINICAL STATE



307/397 (77.3%) patients were under the care of a **Parkinson's disease service** prior to their admission

180/316 (57%) sets of case notes contained **no evidence** that patients with Parkinson's disease had a **named contact with their Parkinson's disease service**

**Parkinson's disease consultants** and/or specialist nurses were involved for **160/497 (32.2%) patients**

## MESSAGE 5. PROVIDE WRITTEN INFORMATION AT DISCHARGE ON HOW TO MANAGE SWALLOWING DIFFICULTIES



168/292 (57.5%) patients/carers were provided with **information on the administration of medicines prior to discharge**. The information was more likely to be provided if the patient's Parkinson's disease medication had been altered during the admission

There was **no evidence** in the case notes of **communication at discharge** with those responsible for the care of the patient in the community in **90/275 (32.7%) cases reviewed**

There was evidence in the case notes that the **patient's level of swallowing/aspiration risk in the community was considered prior to discharge** for **61/210 (29.0%) patients**