

Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

CATEGORY: Nursing	SUBJECT: Dysphagia	SECTION: D
DATE: May 1996	Administrator: <u>J. M.</u>	POLICY: 6
REVISION DATES: December 2004	Director of Care: <u>Cheryl Allick</u>	

DYSPHAGIA

POLICY:

To ensure that the proper diet is provided for the resident who is having difficulty swallowing or exhibiting signs of choking while eating.

PROCEDURE:

1. When the Registered Staff observe that a resident is experiencing difficulty swallowing at mealtimes, a temporary intervention on the resident's behalf will be made to prevent any further complications. The interventions may include: change in texture, thickened fluids and supervision during meals.
2. The Registered Staff will then complete a dietary requisition and forward it to the Dietary Supervisor for the Dietitian to assess the resident's needs. Further interventions will be implemented as recommended by the Dietitian.
3. The Dietitian will put the recommendations in the Doctor's book for the Physician to change the diet order.
4. The Dietitian will update the plan of care and document in the multidisciplinary notes.
5. The Dietary Supervisor will inform the dietary staff of any necessary changes.
6. The Dietary Supervisor will update the resident's family with any changes to the resident's diet.
7. When further interventions as required, such as the possibility of enteral feeding, the multidisciplinary team will discuss the options with the resident and family.
8. The multidisciplinary team will ensure that the resident and family are aware of all advantages and/or disadvantages of enteral feeding.
9. The wishes of the resident and family must be respected at all times.