

## THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH HEAD AND NECK SOCIETY

**Title:** The Dysphagia Dysphonia Modernized Care Acute Pathway: Is it working?

**Body:** Background:

The modernised care dysphonia/ dysphagia pathway is a scheduled care reform initiative that seeks to implement, operationalise and optimise clinically redesigned patient pathways.

Aims & Objectives:

1. To review the outcomes of SLT led clinics
  - a. Numbers seen
  - b. Numbers removed from ENT waiting list
  - c. Waiting times
  - d. Numbers referred to community SLT

Methodology: Data was collected prospectively via excel document over a 12month period.

Results:

- a) A total of 329 patients were seen, n=265 news and n=64 reviews, 265 (83%) patients attended, 5% DNA rate. Staffing allocated avg.8WTE.Clinical Specialist SLT.
- b) 89% (n=286) patients being directly removed without any need for ENT follow up.11% of patients returned for ENT follow up. Modernised care pathway removed 4.65% of new patients from the overall ENT waitlist.
- c) Waiting times varied significantly, from 2-100weeks but overall improvement in waiting times from 4 years when the pilot was first established.
- d) 41% (n=130) patients were identified to be referred/ care returned to community speech and language therapists.

Conclusion: The modernised care acute pathway seems to be successfully achieving it's intended aims of managing patients appropriately with low/ medium voice/ swallow concerns.

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