

SUBJECT: THICKENED LIQUIDS FOR PATIENTS WITH DYSPHAGIA	REFERENCE #8208
DEPARTMENT: REHABILITATION SERVICES	PAGE: 1 OF: 1
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

PURPOSE:

Patients with dysphagia may require thickened liquids to prevent aspiration.

POLICY:

All patients will have appropriate liquids to meet hydration needs.

PROCEDURE:

- Patients:
 - Who are diagnosed with dysphagia by both a physician (primary or radiologist) and a Speech-Language Pathologist
 - Who require thickened liquids to prevent aspiration
 - Will be referred to the physician for an order for this dietary requirement
 - The staff Speech-Language Pathologist will notify Nursing and Nutritional Services regarding the patient’s thickened liquid requirements
- The liquid thickness/consistency will be determined based on:
 - The dietary requirements of the patient.
 - The liquids available in the hospital.
 - The type of food thickener available in the hospital kitchen.
- Commercial thickening products include “Thicken Up”, “Thick - It”, “Thick - It II” and “Thick -n- Easy”. Each of these products provide instructions on the product label.