

ORGANIZATION "C" - FEES PROTOCOL

The speech-language pathologist will assist the physician in interpretation of FEES.

1. Universal precautions will be utilized according to "ORG C" policies and procedures. SLP equipment used for FEES will include gloves during each examination and may include face and/or eye protection.
2. Patient preparation and positioning
 - a. Physician scoping will assess readiness of patient for FEES and determine any factors which may contraindicate the use of green food coloring.
 - b. Children will be positioned in a manner that would avoid spontaneous or reflex movements that could interfere with the safety of the examination. Children who are unable to sit unassisted may be stabilized by a parent or caregiver.
 - c. Modification to positioning should be made as needed. Standard infant feeding positions include semi-upright or sidelying and require head, neck and trunk support. Older children typically will be positioned upright, but positioning will depend on the child's medical status, diagnosis, and overall motor control. FEES may be performed at bedside with the patient's head elevated as appropriate.
3. SLP will make clinical/anatomical/physiological observation prior to bolus presentation.
4. Bolus presentation/feeding
 - a. The SLP will administer and modify food bolus.
 - b. The following may be used (individual servings) and are presented in an order of least difficulty for the patient. Food bolus/liquid is tinted with green food coloring using 1 to 2 drops per food/liquid presentation or less. Food/liquid will be presented in 4 ounce or less containers. No food coloring will be used with milk. Green food coloring is administered from individual/one time use bottles that will be disposed of appropriately immediately after use.
 - i. Cracker
 - ii. Peaches
 - iii. Applesauce
 - iv. Milk
 - v. Water
 - vi. Ice chips
 - c. SLP will evaluate swallowing physiology, coordination, and associated events.
 - i. Pre-swallow segment observations
 - ii. Post-swallow segment observations
 - iii. Identify and interpret the impact of abnormal swallowing physiology
 - iv. Associated physiological observations
5. SLP will evaluate effect of postures, maneuvers, bolus modifications, and compensatory techniques that may positively affect swallowing safety and efficiency.
6. SLP records thorough description of exam including rational for any recommendations, referrals or treatment plan.
7. Additional and more specific information is found in guidelines from ASHA at www.asha.org/policy/GL2004-00059.htm