

Fiberoptic/Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) in Pediatrics
Pediatric ListServ Summary – January 2018

- 1) Do SLPs ever scope or is it standard for ENT to scope with collaboration with SLP?
 - A. We have a guideline vetted by ENT and SLP that outlines when we scope together and when we scope independently
 - B. Some of our SLP's have the training to scope; however, our ENTs perform all scopes in collaboration w/ SLP
 - C. Our ENTs presently scope with collaboration with SLP

- 2) Do you have a protocol that you use (who is a FEES candidate, age restrictions, any standardization protocols)?
 - A. yes
 - B. a FEES candidate is anyone having concerns for pharyngeal implications from dysphagia; no age restrictions; we following the SAAS FEES protocol.
 - C. Our Protocol is attached; There is a protocol in CICU and CCU for which babies would be FEES candidates based on diagnosis/ surgery. There is no written protocol in other units. SLP and/or physician determine appropriateness of administration of FEES per patient and perform per physician order.

- 3) Do you use blue dye, if so: which product? If not: what do you use?
 - A. We use Phagein Blue
 - B. We use green dye, no specific product.
 - C. Answer included in Protocol

- 4) Any peds FEES research that you feel helps with reimbursement or referrals?
 - A. We have had no issues with reimbursement. Referrals are not as common as they are for VFSS, but our focus has been on educating benefits and shortcoming of one exam versus the other and why we might recommend each. We have cited some specific research in the past.

 - B. Reimbursed at the same rate as we are for other speech evaluation cpt codes (very low for Medicaid). To the best of our knowledge we have not had any rejections but just started using this code over the past few months.

 - C. None that we have cataloged