

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

HREC Project Number:	HRE2023-0621
Project Title:	A European Survey of Dysphagia Care and Management by Allied Health Professionals
Chief Investigator:	Professor Renée Speyer
Version Number:	1
Version Date:	10/09/2024

What is the Project About?

This online survey is collecting information from allied health professionals across Europe in relation to management of patients with swallowing disorders (dysphagia). The prevalence of dysphagia in the general population is as high as 16%. Consequences of dysphagia include avoidance of eating or drinking, poor diet, poor social engagement, pneumonia, and reduced quality of life. Given the prevalence and impact of dysphagia, it is crucial that allied health professionals are providing evidence-based dysphagia care. In Europe, dysphagia assessment and treatment may be primarily provided by speech language pathologists (SLP)s, occupational therapists (OT)s, physiotherapists (FT)'s and/or nurses. University training programs may vary across disciplines or countries and it is not known if allied health professional practice currently aligns with evidence-based standards for dysphagia care.

Findings from this online survey will assist in providing information to assist the development of future recommendations for university training and continuing professional development in dysphagia management for relevant allied health professionals. We hope that findings from this project will ultimately make a contribution to improving health and quality of life for people with dysphagia.

Who is invited to participate?

This survey is for Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)s, Occupational Therapist (OT)s, Physiotherapist (FT)s and Nurses across Europe who have provided healthcare services to patients with dysphagia over the past twelve months. Participants will need to be fluent in English.



Dysphagia Education

Who is doing the Research?

This project is being conducted by Professor Renee Speyer from University of Galway and Professor Reinie Cordier from University of Northumbria.

Why am I being asked to take part and what will I have to do?

Participation in this project requires the completion of an online survey. The first section of the survey will ask you general demographic questions about your background (e.g., profession, qualifications, years since graduation, current role and type of healthcare setting). The second section of the survey will ask you about the types of assessment and intervention practices you provide to patients with dysphagia (e.g., types of dysphagia screening and assessments used and frequency of use, types of dysphagia interventions used and frequency of use) and types of professional development opportunities that are available to you in relation to dysphagia. It is expected that this survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Are there any benefits' to being in the research project?

This project aims to collect information that may assist with the development of future dysphagia skills training opportunities for relevant allied health professionals. Some participants may appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this research. There will be no costs to you and you will not be paid for participating in this survey.

Are there any risks, side-effects, discomforts or inconveniences from being in the research project?

This survey will take approximately 15 minutes of your time. Aside from the contribution of time, there are no associated risks to participating in this research. The survey will not ask you to disclose confidential information relating to patients. Data from the surveys will be analysed collectively and will not be used to comment on the services or performance of individually named healthcare providers.

Who will have access to my information?

The information collected in this survey will be non-identifiable (anonymous). This means that we will not ask for your name or other personal details. No one, not even the research team, will be able to identify you from your survey responses. All information we collect will be used only in this project unless otherwise specified. The results of this research may be presented at conferences or published in professional journals, but you will not be identifiable.

Survey responses will be pass-word protected and stored electronically for 7 years after the research is published and then destroyed. Only the following people will have access to the have access to survey responses: the research team and, in the event of an audit or investigation, staff from the Curtin University Office of Research and Development.

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Will you tell me the results of the research?

If you are interested in obtaining a summary of the results, please contact the researchers after December 2025.

Do I have to take part in the research project?

Taking part in a research project is voluntary. It is your choice to take part or not. You do not have to agree if you do not want to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, that is okay, you can withdraw from the project. If you do not complete the survey, the online survey program will still record the responses you provided. However, if you choose to discontinue, data from your survey will not be analysed or included in the project. If you choose not to take part or start and then stop the survey, it will not affect your relationship with the University, staff or colleagues.

What happens next and who can I contact about the research?

You can participate in this study by proceeding with this survey. To access the survey, please go the following link: https://curtin.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Tk2pv5zJHhPMQm

You can also email Renee.speyer@universityofgalway.ie to request to have the link emailed to you.

At the start of the questionnaire, available via the link provided, there is a checkbox to indicate you have understood the information provided here in the information sheet.

It would be greatly appreciated if you are able to share the survey link onto other potential participants in your professional network. This will assist with sourcing as many participants as possible.

If you have any questions about this project, or wish to discuss your participation then please contact Renee Speyer: Renee.speyer@universityofgalway.ie.

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HREC number HRE2023-0621). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular, any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223 or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093 or email hrec@curtin.edu.au.

Researchers:

Professor Reinie Cordier

Dept. Social Work, Education and Community
Well-being
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences
Northumbria University
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom
E: Reine.cordier@curtin.edu.au

Professor Renée Speyer

School of Health Sciences
College of Medicine, Nursing & Health
Sciences School of Health Sciences
University of Galway
Galway, Ireland
E: Renee.speyer@universityofgalway.ie