

HARPWOOD CHOKING RISK ASSESSMENT

Cognitive Function	Score	Alertness	Score	Postural Control	Score
The person is aware of their surroundings	0	The person is fully alert during eating and drinking	0	No postural difficulties	0
The person is aware of risks of their dysphagia	0	Person opens and closes mouth appropriately	0	Can achieve a stable condition during meals	0
Requires assistance to eat and drink	1	The person has reduced ability to focus	1	Postural stability deteriorates during mealtimes	1
Not aware of surroundings	1	Reduced response to assistance	1	Needs to be repositioned during meal times	1
Not aware of safety aspects of eating and drinking e.g. temperature	2	Person is sleepy less alert	2	Unable to maintain a stable position during meals	2
Not aware of risks associated with dysphagia	2	No anticipatory response to the carer or to food and drink	2	Needs assistance to reposition during meals	2
General Health	Score	Fatigue	Score	Oral Health	Score
The person is generally in good health	0	Does not get fatigued during meals	0	No oral health problems	0
Not suffering from any infections	0	Safe posture is not affected by fatigue	0	Well-fitting dentures	0
Underlying medical conditions stroke etc	1	Becomes fatigued during meal times	1	Minor oral problems eg thrush	1
Currently suffering from an infection	1	Safe posture is affected by fatigue	1	Dentures which are not well fitting	1
Serious compromised immune system due to frailty	2	Falls asleep during mealtimes	2	Severe oral health probs eg mouth ulcers	2
Reduced or no ability to make decisions	2	Posture cannot be maintained when they are fatigued	2	Poor fitting dentures which are causing health problems	2

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Respiratory Function	Score	Mental Health	Score	Pain Management	Score
No underlying respiratory problems	0	No mental health problems which impact on eating and drinking	0	Has no unmanaged pain	0
Active and effective cough reflex	0	Able to eat and drink safely with appropriate support	0	Person able to communicate about his/her pain	0
Has respiratory problems which cause difficulties with eating and drinking	1	Persons behaviours may impact on the safety of eating and drinking	1	Person does or may experience unmanaged pain which is a distraction during mealtimes	1
Delayed Less effective cough reflex	1	May become more distressed and want to walk around with food	1	Limited ability to communicate about any pain	1
Severely impaired problems COPD which affect eating and drinking	2	Person's behaviour is often incompatible with safe eating	2	Experiences unmanaged pain which distracts them during eating	2
Severely delayed weak or absent cough reflex	2	Severe mental health or behavioural problems that impact on safe eating	2	Cannot communicate any pain they are experiencing	2
Environment	Score	Distractibility	Score	Medical Conditions	Score
Needs no adaptation changes for safe eating and drinking	0	Person focuses on carer when eating and drinking	0	History of gastric reflux cerebral palsy CVA over 2 years ago	1
Safety not affected by others	0	Eats and drinks comfortably with others	0	Parkinson's disease or Huntington's	2
Persons environment not temporarily adapted for need	1	Occasionally distracted during mealtimes	1	Recent history of CVA dementia	1
Safety is affected by others in the environment	1	Prefers to eat alone aware of risks of dysphasia	1	History of dysphagia absence of chewing	2
Environment is not appropriate for need	2	Highly distracted by environment and sounds	2	Previous history of choking during mealtimes	3
Safety seriously compromised by others	2	Eats alone in bedroom and is unaware of risk of dysphagia	2	Previous history of aspiration	3

WHERE A SCORE IS RECORDED IN RED REFER TO GP/SALT

Low Risk 0-10	Medium Risk 11- 20	High Risk 21-30 and severe risk 30+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff to be aware of choking risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider referral to GP/SALT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refer to GP/SALT. - Specify safest consistency, feeding strategies, positioning, utensils and quantities.