

Saliva control service

This leaflet offers information on what to expect if your child is referred to the saliva control service at Evelina London Children's Hospital. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details listed at the end of this leaflet.

What does the saliva control service offer?

The saliva control clinic provides specialist assessment, advice and treatment on issues surrounding your child's saliva control. This may involve interventions such as injections (Botulinum Toxin A), changes to your child's medication, oral-motor therapy (exercises designed to help children learn a more mature swallowing pattern to avoid drooling) or surgery.

Who can attend?

The clinic is for children who have difficulties swallowing their saliva, leading to dribbling/drooling.

Where do I need to go?

The clinic is held at the Children's Outpatient Department, Ocean (ground) Floor, Evelina London Children's Hospital. If you need help with transport, please contact **Patient Transport Services** on 020 7188 2888, for a telephone assessment.

Who will I see?

On your first visit you are likely to see Dr Charlie Fairhurst (consultant paediatrician in neurodisability) and Rebecca Murphy (highly specialist speech and language therapist).



Dr Charlie Fairhurst



Rebecca Murphy

What do I need to bring with me?

It is sometimes helpful for the speech and language therapist to see how your child eats and drinks in order to assess how he or she uses the muscles in his or her mouth. If your child eats and drinks orally, please bring a snack and a drink with you to the appointment.

What will happen at my child's first appointment?

At your first appointment we will have a chat about your child's medical history. You will be given the opportunity to discuss:

- details of your child's drooling
- what has already been tried to help manage the drooling
- what you want your child to achieve.

The speech and language therapist may examine your child's mouth. There will be toys available for them to play with during the appointment. If appropriate, your child will be invited to contribute to the discussion. All the possible treatment options for helping to manage the drooling will be discussed with you.

What happens next?

A written summary of the history, findings, discussion and advice will be sent to you, to the person who referred you and to any other local professionals who are involved. Further medical tests or treatments may be offered at the hospital at a later date. Follow-up appointments can be arranged, if appropriate.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns regarding appointments, please contact Mary Hunter (Dr Charlie Fairhurst's secretary) on **020 7188 4003**.

If you have any questions regarding speech therapy, please contact Rebecca Murphy on **020 7188 3992**.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Further information

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

t: 020 7188 3003 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

e: letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

To make comments or raise concerns about the Trust's services, please contact PALS. Ask a member of staff to direct you to the PALS office or:

t: 020 7188 8801 at St Thomas' **t:** 020 7188 8803 at Guy's **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

Language Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch using the following contact details.

t: 020 7188 8815 **fax:** 020 7188 5953

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

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To join, please call 0848 143 4017, email members@gstt.nhs.uk or visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk

Map



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