



Speech & language therapy led endoscopy clinic referral guidance

Luton and Dunstable Hospital ENT department are pleased to confirm that the new clinic described previously is providing appropriately referred patients with more timely access to stroboscopy and Speech and Language Therapy, as their primary treatment. This new referral pathway avoids separate waits for ENT/SLT as the clinic involves stroboscopic assessment of the patient's larynx alongside a Speech and Language Therapy evaluation, to provide the most accurate diagnosis and management plan. This clinic is appropriate for anyone with voice change over the age of 16, who has no history of cancer, dysphagia, weight loss or lumps palpated (See e-referral system for more detailed criteria). Patients can be referred to this clinic via the e-referral system or by letter.

To refer patients via the e-referral system use key words 'voice change' or dysphonia'. We have had a few referrals which do not meet the criteria, which has led to them being moved back into the general ENT clinic. Two examples are a patient a suspected cyst on a tonsil and another with the sensation of a lump in the throat.

For further information please contact Zoe Knight, Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, Head and Neck/ENT, SEPT Community Health Services Bedfordshire, Speech and Language Therapy Department, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Tel: 01582 497049.