



Consultants in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management

The Professional Imaging Review

February 2009

Our Goal is to see you in “24 to 48 Hours”

Professional Imaging knows how important it is to see patients quickly for their dysphagia consultation including the MBSS. Our GOAL is to schedule and see a patient within 24 to 48 hours of consult. Professional Imaging meets this goal approximately 95% of the time. On occasion it can take up to 72 hours to schedule a patient. Many factors affect our ability to schedule every patient within this time frame, traffic, staffing, van repairs, and/or unusually high number of consults received in one day, which are all out of our control. However one limiting factor that may be able to help us achieve this goal is being able to see patients when you are not present as our teams do typically work a longer day to be able to see as many patients as possible. Technology is amazing. Our ability to record the study with audio on a dvd/tape allows you to have access to our full evaluation from start to finish. Please remember that when you cancel a patient on a given day due to your schedule changes that it could be the same 24 to 48 until they can be rescheduled as we are seeing approx. 60 patients a day on carefully planned routes.

New Mobile Clinics!!!

As many of you have experienced, we are running our back-up older clinics on a more full time basis these days due to our increased patient demand. No, they do not look great and sometimes have more mechanical issues just due to their age. However the goal of having these clinics originally was to be able to still see patients who have a risk for aspiration. Apologizing for the look/age of the clinic is much better than apologizing to a patient who may be suffering. You will be excited to know that in the first quarter of this year Professional Imaging will have 4 brand new '09 mobile clinics that will be put into service returning our older clinics back to their initial function which is solely “back-up” to allow for preventative maintenance on the newer clinics and any unexpected problems. The Professional Imaging team is working around the clock to get in place staff, vans, schedulers to meet our growing demand. Thank you for your patience as we grow!



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Professional Imaging Believes Education is the "Key" to understanding: Please reserve a seat ASAP! Limited seating available!!

2009 Upcoming Conferences - First Half of the Year

February 28, 2009 - Deciphering Dysphagia with Estim in San Antonio, Texas, 7.5 CEU's, call 1-866-675-6277 to reserve a seat.

April 18, 2009 - Reading the MBSS for Practical Application in the Long Term Care Setting, in McAllen, Texas, 3.0 CEU's, call 1-866-676-6277 to reserve a seat

April 24, 2009 - Strategize with Strategies in Corsicana, Texas, 4.0 CEU's, Call 1-866-675-6277 to reserve a seat.

May 2, 2009 - Deciphering Dysphagia with Estim in Houston, Texas, 7.5 CEU's, Call 1-866-675-6277 to reserve a seat.

May 30, 2009 - Dysphagia Scene Investigators (DSI), please note change in topic and increase in CEU's for this course, in Austin, Texas, 6.5 CEUS, Call 1-866-675-6277 to reserve a seat.

****All Conferences are limited seating, please register early to ensure a seat, a conference flier will be mailed out in the upcoming newsletters as well as posted on the website at MBSSONLINE.COM We hope to see you all there. Education is Key! ******

Dysphagia Tidbit

Many Speech Pathologists have had to rely on their clinical bedside swallowing evaluations due to lack of efficient, affordable service for obtaining an MBSS. Given that approximately 40% of patients are silent aspirators that leaves room for a huge margin of error when determining safe diets for patients at the bedside. As Professional Imaging continues to grow and provide service to a larger and larger service area the MBSS is becoming the standard of care due to our efficient and affordable Dysphagia consultations including the mobile Modified Barium Swallow Study. Not only can you get a recommendation for the safest diet but identify the underlying pathophysiology of the swallowing disorder for a more effective treatment plan. We provide you with information on it, when, and why a patient is penetrating or aspirating, what strategies might be helpful, and if the patient has silent aspiration (which CANNOT be identified at the bedside or if a cough is present as a symptom). Early identification of these swallowing issues can lead to improved overall patient performance with dysphagia treatment by having this targeted treatment plan. Remember if a patient has an underlying swallowing problem that goes unidentified this can affect their nutrition/hydration status, ability to get medications to treat their hypertension, Parkinson's, etc., not to mention their quality of life of just enjoying eating. Swallowing most basically is a **LIFE SUSTAINING FUNCTION** and without addressing this aspect of a patient's illness or without the proper diagnosis and treatment of it a patient **WILL NOT** have the ability to get better from any other illness.