

Access to Instrumental Assessment within Adult Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Services in Northern Ireland

By instrumental assessment, we are referring specifically to VFSS (Videofluoroscopic Swallow Study) and FEES (Fibreoptic Endoscopic Examination of Swallowing)

1. Within your Trust, do you offer the following types of instrumental assessment? With a 'yes' or 'no' please indicate which services have access to VFS and / or FEES.

Service area	Access to Videofluoroscopy	Access to Fibreoptic Endoscopic Examination of Swallowing
Adult Acute (do not include Learning Disability or head and neck cancer / oncology here) include stroke, dementia, general acute and neuro disability)	Yes	Yes
Adult Community (do not include Learning Disability or head and neck cancer / oncology here) include stroke, dementia, general acute and neuro disability)	Yes	Yes
Adult Learning Disability	Yes	Yes
Adult Head and Neck cancer / Oncology (Acute and Community)	Yes	Yes
Other – please specify		

2. How many assessments for the following have been carried out in your Trust, per calendar year in 2024 and 2025? *If your Trust provides a regional service, please indicate how many assessments were carried out for both Trust domiciled patients and those patients living outside of the Trust area.*

Please Note: In 2024, due to Encompass Go Live, clinics were stood down for the implementation of new processes and radiology systems aligning.

Service Area	Year	VFSS within Trust	VFSS Outside of Trust	FEES within Trust	FEES Outside of Trust
Adult Acute (do not include Learning Disability or head and neck Cancer here) include stroke, dementia, general acute and neuro disability. <i>Includes Regional Acquired Brain Injury Unit Neurosurgery / Neurology</i>	2024	27	7	401 not broken down per Trust	0
	2025	42	5	254 not broken down per Trust	0
Adult Community (do not include Learning Disability or head and neck cancer here) include stroke, dementia, general acute and neuro disability.	2024	28	0	No clinics	No clinics
	2025	144	0	8 FEES clinic commenced Oct 2025	1 FEES clinic commenced Oct 2025
Adult Learning Disability	2024	2	0	0	0
	2025	4	0	0	0
Adult Head and Neck Cancer / Oncology – Acute and Community	2024	10	11	12	15
	2025	13	28	4	9
Other adult – please specify	2024	0	0	0	0
	2025	0	0	0	0
Ward 29 RVH – Regional ENT	2024			Total 35	

3. Please indicate which hospital in your Trust area is providing these services?

Hospital	VFS	FEES
Altnagelvin Area Hospital WHSCT		
South West Acute Hospital WHSCT		
Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex WHSCT		
Causeway Hospital NHSCT		
Antrim Area Hospital NHSCT		
Daisy Hill Hospital SHSCT		
Craigavon Hospital SHSCT		
South Tyrone Hospital SHSCT		
Lagan Valley Hospital SEHSCT		
Ulster Hospital SEHSCT		
Downe Hospital SEHSCT		
Royal Belfast Hospital BHSCT	Yes	Yes
Belfast City Hospital BHSCT	Yes	Yes
Mater Hospital BHSCT	Yes	Yes
Musgrave Park Hospital BHSCT	Yes	Yes
Other – please specify		