

## HEALTH & SAFETY: VIDEOFLUOROSCOPY/MODIFIED BARIUM SWALLOWING STUDY

### Description of Issue and Importance

**Videofluoroscopy (VFS) or Modified Barium Swallow Study (MBSS):** A moving x-ray study that is useful in evaluating how food/liquid moves from the mouth to the esophagus. A physician orders this type of test to evaluate, diagnose and treat specific swallowing problems.

VFS or MBSS allows the professional to actually see “material” being swallowed; it provides information that cannot be obtained from a clinical (bedside or tableside) examination of the person.

A MBSS or VFS is recommended for people with suspected swallowing disorders in order to rule out aspiration or airway obstruction. This test is often indicated by suspicions noted in the bedside or table-side evaluation. Clinical signs of swallowing dysfunction include: coughing, choking, gagging, color changes, congestion, weight loss, or failure to thrive.

### Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

- Use adaptive equipment as ordered
- Position individual according to plan during and outside of mealtime
- Provide diet texture and fluid consistency as ordered
- Observe for coughing, choking, gagging, color changes, congestion, weight loss, or failure to thrive
- Communicate sign/symptoms with health care providers and other team members

### Related Resources

Martin-Harris, Bonnie, Logemann, Jeri A., McMahon, Steven, Schleicher Melanie, and Sandidge, John. (2000) Clinical Utility of the Modified Barium Swallow Study. *Dysphagia*. 15:3 pp. 136-141.

### Outreach Services

[outreach@fssa.in.gov](mailto:outreach@fssa.in.gov) • [DDRSOutreach.IN.gov](http://DDRSOutreach.IN.gov)

For related reminders and resources, please visit [DDRSOutreach.In.gov](http://DDRSOutreach.In.gov).



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