Swallow Aware

Adverse incident reporting relating to swallowing

What do I report?

Healthcare staff should report the following swallowing related incidents or "near misses" using local risk management systems (e.g. Datix).

EATING DRINKING AND SWALLOWING ADVERSE INCIDENT REPORTING INCLUDES:

Trigger 1: Choking episodes

➔ Any person who chokes following eating, drinking and swallowing (including those requiring assistance from staff such as back slaps or abdominal thrusts).

Trigger 2: Speech and language therapy, eating, drinking and swallowing recommendations not being followed

➔ Incorrect IDDSI level of food or fluids provided to a person.
➔ Current recommendations not shared or handed over.
➔ Medications given in an incorrect texture or format.
➔ Supervision recommendations not followed.

Trigger 3: Mismanagement of thickening products

➔ Thickening products not stored securely (risking accidental consumption and potential obstruction).
➔ Thickening products not provided when moving between care settings or discharge home.

Trigger 4: Relevant Trust Policy to support eating, drinking and swallowing not being followed

➔ Risk assessments / safeguarding protocols not followed.

Data Approvers:

➔ For incidents relating to choking, eating, drinking or swallowing use the regionally agreed **CCS2 code; Patient accident; Choking.**
➔ If an incident involves medication highlight that a medication is involved alongside choking.

**Improving patient's safety is everyone's responsibility.
Improve Care, Report and Share!**