

Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Supports Division Policy	Policy Number:
	Supersedes: Supporting People on the DD Waiver with Dysphagia/Risk for Aspiration Policy (effective 11-1-04)
Policy Title: Aspiration Risk Management Policy	
Effective Date: August 16, 2010	
Approved: <i>Signature on file</i>	Date: 8-3-10

I. PURPOSE

This policy, in conjunction with the associated procedure, clarifies expectations for all interdisciplinary team members (IDT) serving adults, age twenty-one and older, through the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver. This policy supplements the current DD Waiver Standards.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) that interdisciplinary team members provide support for adults on the DD Waiver who are at risk for aspiration in accordance with the Aspiration Risk Management Procedure associated with this policy.

These supports include screening for aspiration risk, collaborative assessment, support for informed decision making on the part of the individual and their guardian, collaborative development of a Comprehensive Aspiration Risk Management Plan (CARMP), training and monitoring.

Individuals at risk for aspiration, with their guardians, may decide whether or not to follow the recommended CARMP in whole or in part. These decisions must be documented.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all interdisciplinary team members serving adults on the DD Waiver.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Adults: Means individuals who are at least 21 years old and are no longer eligible for Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits through the Medicaid state plan.

Aspiration: Means the act of food, saliva, liquids, phlegm, gastric reflux material or any other matter getting below the true vocal cords and into the trachea. Aspiration is directly linked to dysphagia, but may also occur as a result of gastroesophageal reflux.

Comprehensive Aspiration Risk Management Plan (CARMP): Means a set of instructions regarding how an individual at risk for aspiration is to be supported as safely as possible during all daily routines including eating, bathing/hygiene, rest/leisure, and community outings. The plan will include clear instructions regarding adaptive equipment, proper positioning, assisted eating/feeding techniques and nutritional content, oral hygiene, medication delivery, relevant behavioral supports and monitoring for signs and symptoms of aspiration related illness. Several different disciplines may be responsible for developing each element of the CARMP.

Interdisciplinary Team Members (IDT): Means the team responsible for development of the individual service plan (ISP) and for identifying the agencies and individuals responsible for providing the services and supports identified in the ISP. The IDT shall consist of the following core members: the individual; case manager; guardian (if appointed by the court); “helper” chosen by the individual or their guardian if desired; key community service provider staff from residential and day services, including at least direct support personnel and the service coordinator; ancillary service providers such as nutritional services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, behavior support consultant, respite, private duty nursing and other medical personnel; others such as family members, advocates, representatives of generic services.

V. REFERENCES

DD Waiver Standards
Aspiration Risk Management Procedure
Comprehensive Aspiration Risk Management Plan template