Dysphagia Screening

- Patient will remain NPO until swallow screen is completed.
- Swallow screen will be completed by competency validated nurse.

**SWALLOW SCREEN ASSESSMENT**
Complete within 24 hours of admission and before anything by mouth which includes: medications, fluids and food.

Complete a second screen for status change and for management once per hospital stay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWALLOW SCREEN ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>On Admission</th>
<th>Status Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
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1. Is the patient fully conscious?  
   - Yes  
   - No
2. Can the patient be positioned upright?  
   - Yes  
   - No
3. Can the patient manage own saliva without drooling, coughing, or choking?  
   - Yes  
   - No
4. Can the patient talk/speak without “wet” gurgly voice?  
   - Yes  
   - No
5. Can the patient cough/clear throat with adequate strength?  
   - Yes  
   - No
6. Can the patient smile symmetrically and move the tongue normally?  
   - Yes  
   - No

Ask the patient to swallow while gently placing your fingers along the upper trachea.

7. Does the larynx rise and fall a single time with each swallow?  
   - Yes  
   - No
8. Does the patient initiate swallowing within 3 seconds?  
   - Yes  
   - No
9. Does the patient complete swallow within 2 seconds? (watch and feel)  
   - Yes  
   - No

- If "yes" responses to all of above, observe the patient for any other signs of dysphagia by presenting the patient with single sip of water from a cup.
- If signs of aspiration are observed, keep patient NPO and refer to speech therapy.
- If no cough or signs of aspiration are observed with initial sip of water from cup, continue by providing a single sip of water through a straw.

- **Other signs of dysphagia may include:**
  - Effortful/delayed swallow
  - Multiple swallows per bite/sip
  - SOB after swallow
  - Chest congestion after swallow
  - Temperature rise after eating/drinking
  - Pulse ox less than 92% (or baseline)
  - Is the patient choking, coughing, clearing throat or has wet vocal quality with or without food

If you answered “No” to any question or if patient currently has a tracheostomy, maintain NPO and notify physician for Speech Therapy consult and/or video swallow study.

Consult ordered:  
Date:  
Time: