

Participant Information Leaflet- Online Survey

Title of Study: Perspectives on the Role of Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) Working in Critical Care: An International Survey

Dear Colleague,

My name is Sarah Rowland, a part-time Dysphagia M.Sc. student of Clinical Speech and Language Studies in Trinity College Dublin with a clinical interest in the area of critical care. I am seeking speech and language therapists (SLTs) with current or recent clinical experience working in critical/intensive care settings in the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, U.S.A., Australia, Canada, Europe or countries further afield to take part in my study. This study has received ethical approval from the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, Trinity College Dublin.

Why is this research being conducted?

There is an increasing body of research internationally supporting the pivotal role of SLTs in a critical care setting. However, little is known about the clinical consistency of professional practice and current service provision internationally in this field. It is important to find clinicians' perspectives on resources, acknowledgment of SLT role and facilitators/barriers to optimum practice.

What is involved?

This anonymous online survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

If you would like to take part in this survey please click on the below.

https://tcdecon.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bflToYmADg50vhH

No identifying information is required in this survey. Participation is completely voluntary and even if you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the survey at any time until the point of submission. The survey will remain open until January 2020. A general reminder email will be sent 2 weeks before the survey closes. Results from the survey will be used as part of this M.Sc. thesis which may be published in the future.

Participant Inclusion Criteria

- SLTs must have a recognised professional qualification and clinical experience in the management of dysphagia.
- SLTs must be working clinically in the area of critical care in the Republic of Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand, Australia, Europe or other countries where the profession is well established or have recent clinical experience of this within the last three years (excluding Medical Observation Units, High Dependency Units or Acute Observation Units).

Participant Exclusion Criteria

- SLTs who have never worked in a critical care setting.
- SLTs who have not worked in a critical care setting in the past three years.

Note, please do not take this survey if you are an SLT working in the U.K. This data has been captured by the RCSLT Tracheostomy Clinical Excellence Network (CEN) in an initial version of this survey circulated over the past year.

Benefits of Partaking in this Study

By partaking in this study you will assist in gathering knowledge on the everyday practice of SLTs working in critical care settings nationally and internationally, including the extent of specialist competence, service provision and to discover similarities and difference in SLTs practice patterns internationally. This will determine if additional research or specialist education is needed to progress and improve optimum patient care in this area. It may lead to the development of training for clinicians or the establishment of national guidelines should this study highlight a need. Ultimately, it is planned that this study will inform evidence-based care and service provision for SLTs working in this area.

If you have any queries about the study, more information may be obtained from Sarah Rowland via email rowlansl@tcd.ie or research supervisor Professor Margaret Walshe via email WALSHEMA@tcd.ie.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Rowland,
M.Sc. Clinical Speech and Language Therapy Student, Trinity College Dublin