

Paediatric Multidisciplinary Feeding Services

The Mater Health and Wellness Multidisciplinary Feeding Service offers the following for children aged newborn to 14 years:

- **Multidisciplinary Feeding Clinic:** assessment and review by an experienced team of clinicians from Dietetics, Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy
- **Outpatient Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy feeding therapy sessions:** to help you and your child reach their goals for feeding, eating, drinking and mealtimes.
- **Outpatient Dietetics review:** to help your child meet their nutritional goals for growth and development.
- **Tube weaning:** Our multidisciplinary team can provide a thorough assessment to determine if your child meets criteria or is ready for weaning from their feeding tube. Our team has developed tube weaning guidelines based on current international research. If appropriate for your child, a tube wean intervention may involve admission to Mater Children's Private Brisbane under the care of a Mater paediatric consultant or alternatively, an intensive clinic-based intervention may be an option. Our team will discuss the most appropriate options for your child, along with expected outcomes

The Multidisciplinary Feeding Clinic offers a comprehensive feeding team assessment in the one session. You will have the opportunity to discuss your concerns and goals in the one appointment. The team will observe your child's feeding/mealtime skills and behaviours. Recommendations will be discussed with you and coordinated and agreed on as a team.

Multidisciplinary feeding clinic team	How this team member can support you
<p>Dietitian Assess your child's overall growth and nutritional adequacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on helping your child with growth if required • Practical advice on how to fill any nutritional gaps • For tube weaning, a pre-wean step down plan for your child's current feeds, and ongoing monitoring and adjustment of tube feeds throughout the wean period
<p>Occupational Therapy Assess and help you understand how your child's developmental skills, behaviours, and other issues in daily life may impact their interest and ability to participate in eating, drinking, and mealtimes.</p>	<p>Help develop your child's skills and behaviours to increase success, interest, and participation in feeding and mealtimes. We work with families to provide practical strategies and guidance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning your child appropriately during meals, such as recommending suitable highchairs and seating options. • Fostering your child's progress towards self-feeding and independence during mealtimes, for example, types of feeding utensils to support success. • Managing sensory challenges at mealtimes, for example, addressing issues related to food textures. • Developing daily routines that support positive feeding and mealtime experiences for the child and family. • Supporting positive feeding and mealtime relationships, by increasing understanding of infant behavioural cues and children's behaviours to work towards enjoyable and effective mealtime experiences. <p>Work with families and the Multidisciplinary team to set goals and create individualised therapy plans to support and achieve you and your child's tube-weaning goals.</p>

Speech Pathology

Speech Pathologists assess and support your child's ability to eat, drink, chew, and swallow safely and comfortably. Feeding involves a complex system that includes muscles, coordination, sensory processing, neurological function, respiratory health, gastrointestinal systems, and developmental readiness. We take a holistic approach to understanding these systems and tailoring support to your child's unique needs.

- Help your child develop eating and drinking skills (e.g. chewing, biting).
- Advice around transitioning to solids and textures.
- Advice on appropriate use of cups and bottles.
- Help to make eating and drinking easier and more comfortable for your child.
- Advice about transitioning between oral and non-oral feeding.
- Work alongside the Occupational Therapist to help your child enjoy mealtimes and widen their range of foods and textures.

Booking your appointment

- Referrals are welcomed but not required. Referrals are preferred if your child has a medically complex condition.
- You can access this service if your child is using NDIS funding that is self-managed or financially plan managed. We are not able to provide a service to NDIS Agency managed (portal) NDIS participants. Please inform us before your appointment if you are planning on using NDIS funding.
- Your first appointment will be with the Multidisciplinary Feeding Clinic.

Preparing for your first appointment

- Please complete and return the questionnaire sent to you and the 24-hour feeding/meal time record to info.childrenswellness@mater.org.au on the MONDAY BEFORE your appointment.
- Prepare food to bring to the appointment. Please bring a variety of foods that your child is happy to eat, plus some foods that you would like your child to be able to eat.
- If your child is older and anxious about the appointment, please reassure them that we will not challenge them to eat or drink anything that is uncomfortable for them.
- Please bring any growth information you have such as your child's Red Book to the appointment.

What to expect on the day of assessment

- Please arrive 10 minutes early to complete our registration forms
- In the waiting area, a member of the Feeding Clinic will meet you and introduce themselves before your assessment session starts. The clinician will speak with you about any special requirements, in particular seating arrangements for your child so the team can set up the room.
- In the assessment, one of the clinicians will take a lead role to help keep the session to time while making sure your concerns, goals and expectations from the session are discussed, and that you are satisfied with the advice and recommendations made by the team.
- If your concern and goal is to discuss the appropriateness of a tube wean for your child, there may be additional time and assessment required. We will discuss this with you.

Payment

Payment is required at the end of the session using our EFTPOS machine. Our administration will process any private health or Medicare rebates. If your child is NDIS financially plan managed we will support you to complete an NDIS Schedule of Supports form. Please note unfortunately we are unable to provide a service if your child's NDIS plan is managed by the NDIS agency (i.e. portal managed).

Clinician Fees	
Dietitian – Hicaps Item No 500	\$220.00 for 60 minutes
Occupational Therapist – Hicaps Item No 100	\$220.00 for 60 minutes
Speech Pathologist – Hicaps Item No 320	\$220.00 for 60 minutes
MDT Feeding Assessment appointment (with 3 clinicians)	Total \$600.00 for 60 minutes

If you have any questions please contact our friendly administration team by telephone or email.

We look forward to meeting you.