

Speech and Language Therapy communications

Change of thickener products for supporting patients with swallowing difficulties

From **February 1st 2023** the trust will be moving to a new brand of thickener powder for supporting patients with swallowing difficulties.

This decision has been taken to align Sandwell and West Birmingham hospitals with the thickener product already widely used by all of our community services and the wider Black Country Integrated Care System. Quality and safety of patient care in the transition between hospital and home settings will improve and risk of dosing errors reduce with this product alignment.

The current product; Nutilis Clear, will be replaced by Nestle's Resource Thicken Up Clear.

Current thickener product	NEW thickener product from February 1st
 A white cylindrical container of Nutricia Nutilis Clear thickener. The label features a blue splash graphic and text in multiple languages: "Nutricia Nutilis Clear", "Instant verdikkingsmiddel voor heldere dranken en vloeistoffen", "Épaississant instantané pour boissons et liquides transparents", "Addensante istantaneo ad effetto trasparente per liquidi e bevande".	 A white cylindrical container of Nestle Resource Thicken Up Clear thickener. The label features a blue splash graphic and text: "Nestle Health Science resource ThickenUp clear Instant food & drink thickener". It also includes icons for "Transparent, tasteless, odorless and lump-free", "Rapid thickening & stabilisation", and "Lump-free resistant". The weight "127g e" is visible at the bottom.

The Speech and Language Therapy team will work closely with training representatives from Nestle Health Science to support all clinical areas with the change in product. Ward level training on how to use the new product will be provided for all wards on all sites.

No action is required by individual ward areas. The SLT team and representatives from Nestle will be in touch directly to agree local arrangements to support this transition.

For further enquiries, please contact Lucy Wood, Service Lead for SLT, at Lucy.Wood27@nhs.net