



Lake of the Woods
District Hospital



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State-of-the-art pediatric swallowing assessment and diagnostic imaging now available in Kenora

Kenora, ON, August 17, 2023 – FIREFLY and Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) are excited to announce that feeding and swallowing assessments are now available to pediatric clients in Northwestern Ontario. This new service is due to the recent creation of the Pediatric Complex Feeding and Swallowing Clinic at FIREFLY and the purchase of a new Digital Low Dose Fluoroscopy unit at LWDH.

The FIREFLY Complex Feeding and Swallowing Clinic provides non-emergency assessment and recommendations for complex feeding and swallowing concerns for the pediatric population. The clinic consists of speech-language pathology (SLP), occupational therapy, and dietitian services and partners with the child's medical team to provide the best service possible.

The new Fluoroscopy machine at LWDH has pediatric settings which allows for a much lower dose of radiation to be administered during Video Fluoroscopic Swallow Studies completed by LWDH's radiologist and SLP, along with FIREFLY's Complex Feeding and Swallowing Clinic team staff. The patient will eat/drink varying consistencies of liquids and solids while being monitored with real-time video. This provides a "Gold Standard" assessment of the function and safety of the child's swallow, which in-turn supports the treatment planning implemented by the FIREFLY staff in conjunction with families.

Dr. Catherine Murray, Radiologist and LWDH Diagnostic Imaging Service Lead shares "We are extremely proud of this partnership and service development. LWDH is the only facility in Northern Ontario providing this type of pediatric assessment and it is because of the partnership with FIREFLY and the community's support through the Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation that has made this possible."

Lana Goodman, FIREFLY Clinical Manager of Child and Youth Development Services explains "Prior to the development of the FIREFLY Clinic and this partnership, pediatric clients would need to be referred to a hospital or centre outside of the region for an initial feeding and swallowing assessment and then be referred and wait for the swallow study. This often meant lengthy wait times and travel to Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, or Southern Ontario."

FIREFLY and LWDH have worked closely to streamline the referral process to ensure medically compromised children are seen in a timely manner. Clinical assessments are provided by FIREFLY's Complex Feeding and Swallowing Clinic to determine if a swallow study is required. If deemed necessary and appropriate, the Clinic refers directly to speech language pathology services at the LWDH to initiate the video

fluoroscopic swallow study in the Diagnostic Imaging Department. Follow up and recommendations after the swallow study are completed by FIREFLY.

To learn more or to make a referral to the FIREFLY Complex Feeding and Swallowing Clinic please contact FIREFLY Centralized Intake at 1-833-NWO-KIDS or www.fireflynw.ca.

Also see:

02/11/23 - New Fluoroscopy and Echocardiography spaces officially open in Kenora [file.html \(lwdh.on.ca\)](http://file.html(lwdh.on.ca))

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