



## Professional voice users clinic

### What is it?

Professional voice users clinic is a specialist assessment and advice clinic for people who use their voice in a professional or semi-professional manner, and are having difficulty with their speaking or singing voice. It is based at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. It is a multi-disciplinary clinic involving the ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctor, speech and language therapist (SLT) and singing voice specialist.

### How do you get referred?

You should discuss your symptoms with your GP. If they are in agreement, they can refer to our service. In some circumstances, your local SLT can also refer to this clinic.

### What happens?

During the clinic we will collect information about how you use your voice day to day and during performances. You may be asked to recite a verse or song of your choice to understand your concerns with your singing voice.

We will complete an assessment with a fiberoptic nasendoscopy. This is a small, narrow scope with a camera on the end. The scope is placed into your nose and down into the back of your throat. You can breathe in and out through your nose and mouth during the procedure.

The scope is lubricated with gel so it should not feel painful, however, there is an option to use local anaesthetic spray, if required. We will ask you to complete various voice and singing exercises to aid laryngeal diagnosis. The scope is attached to a computer monitor. A video recording will be taken during the assessment and we will show you this afterwards.

### Are there any risks?

Flexible endoscopy is a very safe procedure for adults. The nose may be uncomfortable and you may feel the sensation of something in your throat. The procedure may cause you to cough or your eyes to water. Very rarely, people may experience a nose bleed after the procedure.

### What happens after the assessment?

After the assessment, you will be able to see the video recording to understand how your voice box is functioning. We will offer you relevant information and advice, and you will be involved in the management plan. You may be asked to come back to the clinic for a further assessment or referred to your local Speech and Language Therapy service.

If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the ENT department or Speech and Language Therapy department.

### Information for Patients

SLT Telephone: (0121) 371 3483

Email: [slt.uhb@nhs.net](mailto:slt.uhb@nhs.net)

## Information for Patients

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### Department address and contact information:

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If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email [interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk).