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Hello,

You have received this email because you work in a specialty that sees people with medically unexplained dysphagia (MUD). You may call this ‘functional’ or ‘psychogenic’ or something else in your setting. This may be as a medical or health professional within neurology, Ear Nose and Throat, gastroenterology, psychiatry, General Practice, psychology or speech and language therapy.

**Here is an opportunity to participate in Round 2 of a survey to explore how different professionals across the range of involved specialties talk about and understand ‘MUD’.**

I am a speech and language therapist (SLT) carrying out clinical work and research with the Bristol Speech and Language Therapy Research Unit (BSLTRU). We are **exploring the terminology used in the management of MUD**.

 We would like to invite you to participate in **Round 2** of a Delphi survey. Information gathered will be *confidential*, all questions are *optional*and you are *not obligated to complete any further survey*if you take part in this one. You may have already completed the round 1 survey. If so thank you very much.

This is a Delphi method survey which is a systematic way of accessing expert opinion and exploring consensus on use of terminology.  There are typically 3 rounds of questions. This is the **second round** and consists of rating scale questions for you to tick, which will help me to explore terminology use and the reasoning behind it. There will also be the opportunity for you to comment on any of your responses. **It does not matter if you did not complete round 1 of the survey.** Your responses to this round are just as valuable.

The survey will be live until **Christmas Eve 2019** and should take no more than 15-30 minutes to complete.

**LINK TO SURVEY:**

[Medically Unexplained Dysphagia Survey Round 2](https://uwe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b2T7a5cOZadlzpj)

**Thank you** for taking the time to read this email and we hope you find the time to complete this survey. **Please forward this link to any colleagues you know who may wish to complete the survey or who may forward it further.**

 If you have any questions or comments, do contact me via the contact details supplied below.

 Yours faithfully,

***Jennifer Short***

**Speech and Language Therapy Researcher**

**Bristol Speech and Language Therapy Research Unit**

**North Bristol NHS Trust**

[Jennifer.Short@nbt.nhs.uk](https://webmail.nbt.nhs.uk/owa/redir.aspx?C=hkX_LuWY124msw3oYUly-xh_N5q-0hjDQmYqxd_nMeNcHhCdiVDXCA..&URL=mailto%3aJennifer.Short%40nbt.nhs.uk)

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**Further Information**

MUD can be defined as oropharyngeal dysphagia occurring without demonstrable abnormalities in the anatomy of the upper aero-digestive tract or swallowing physiology.  However, within the published literature and clinical experience, numerous words/ terms have been used to diagnose and explain the condition.  This had led to a lack of clarity between and within specialties when defining and diagnosing this condition.

It is hoped that consensus will be reached regarding the most helpful and appropriate terminology that can be used when explaining, diagnosing and treating MUD.  Your responses will be critical in providing expert opinion on this under researched area.  They will also help inform the development of treatment pathways and hopefully improve patient outcomes.

I apologise if you have also received this request from elsewhere. I am hoping to recruit respondents from all parts of the UK.

You can find out more about this study, including how we use your information at <https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/bristol-speech-language-therapy-research-unit/bsltru-research/medically-unexplained-dysphagia>.

North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT) is the sponsor for this study based in the UK. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. NBT will keep identifiable information about you for 5 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

NBT will collect information from you for this research study in accordance with our instructions. NBT will keep your name and email if you choose to provide it confidential and will not pass this information to other organisations. NBT will use this information as needed, to contact you about the research study, and make sure that relevant information about the study is recorded for your care, and to oversee the quality of the study. Certain individuals from NBT and regulatory organisations may look at your research records to check the accuracy of the research study. NBT will only receive information without any identifying information.

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Office days: Monday/Wednesday.