



ICU Speech and Language Therapists

Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) play a very important role in caring for critically ill patients and have a key role in the diverse multi-professional team. Their role is to help patients recover their swallowing and communication during treatment in ICU, which may be after a ventilator has been removed, or while they are still on a ventilator with a tracheostomy breathing tube.

Breathing problems, weakness, illness and having a breathing tube, can impact the nerves and muscles in a patient's throat and their ability to communicate and swallow. SLTs work closely with patients to help them recover the ability to speak, eat and drink again as early as possible.

Intensive care SLTs are highly skilled and very well trained, and intensive care units could not function at such a high level without them.