

# MSC E-VISORY

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State of New York Office for People With Developmental Disabilities  
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Distributed by: Division of Person-Centered Supports  
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The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory which provides pertinent and timely information about programs and services available to individuals receiving MSC. Announcements about MSC training, conferences and meetings appear regularly. **MSC Supervisors: Please share this issue with all MSC Service Coordinators and others as appropriate.** In order to receive an email notification when a new MSC E-Visory is posted, please sign up for our mailing list (listserv). Listserv information and past issues can be accessed via the OPWDD website at [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov) or via the following link: [http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/service\\_coordination/medicaid\\_service\\_coordination/msc\\_e-visories](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/service_coordination/medicaid_service_coordination/msc_e-visories)

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### Choking Prevention

OPWDD has issued a Health & Safety Alert on “Choking Prevention”, dated May 2012. Since recognizing and addressing potential risks is of key importance in the health and safety monitoring of the people we serve, service coordinators should be aware of choking prevention. If known risks are present, there should be plans in place for their prevention.

Awareness of these risks and precautions to take is critical, as is responding to any choking occurrence. Individuals with developmental disabilities should be assessed by an appropriate professional to determine proper food and/or liquid consistencies necessary for their health and well-being.

Known choking risks include:

- Objects such as coins, pens, marker caps, and balloons lodged in an airway
- Health issues that affect swallowing and gag reflexes (e.g., cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular disorders, neurological impairments, gastroesophageal reflux disease, and the aging process)
- Eating or drinking too fast, not chewing food thoroughly, or while talking and moving around
- Eating or drinking while under the effects of alcohol or sedating medication
  - Certain medications such as anticonvulsants, psychotropic medications, and sedatives can cause swallowing difficulty

The Health and Safety Alert on “Choking Prevention” can be accessed via the OPWDD website at:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/choking-prevention-health-and-safety-alert\\_0.pdf](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/choking-prevention-health-and-safety-alert_0.pdf)

Additional choking prevention training resources can be found at:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_careers\\_training/training\\_opportunities/choking\\_prevention\\_training\\_resources](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_careers_training/training_opportunities/choking_prevention_training_resources)