

# At Home Healthcare

## **SWALLOWING PROGRAM**

### *Did You Know.....*

- ▀ Patients with dysphagia encounter difficulty or discomfort swallowing. This can range from mild to complete inability to swallow and be an acute or chronic condition.
- ▀ Dysphagia can be caused by neurological disorders such as stroke, ALS, MS and Parkinsonism.
- ▀ Swallowing problems are common with Alzheimer's and dementia.
- ▀ A Modified Barium Swallow (MBS) can be performed in the home to determine swallowing ability.
- ▀ Diet consistency modification is based on the MBS.
- ▀ Safe eating and/or swallowing techniques can be taught based on that study.
- ▀ The caregiver/family can be trained to cue patient for safe eating.
- ▀ VitalStim is an advanced treatment for improving swallowing function that:
  - Uses small electrical current passing through electrodes on the neck to stimulate atrophied or inactive swallowing muscles.
  - Enhances and accelerates progress toward improved swallow function.

For more information, or to schedule an inservice, contact us at:

**1-877-MY NURSE (1-877-696-8773)**

[www.AtHomeHealth.org](http://www.AtHomeHealth.org)