Diabetes Leeds Partnership

# Healthy Eating with Type 2 Diabetes 

## Your personal guide

## What is Type 2 Diabetes?

The food we eat is digested in our stomach and is broken down into 3 main nutrients - proteins, fats and carbohydrates. The carbohydrates are further broken down into glucose (sugar) and absorbed into our blood.


The glucose gets transported around the body in the blood stream to provide our body cells with energy.


Insulin, which is produced by the pancreas, works alongside the glucose. The insulin acts as a key which opens the cell door to allow the glucose to enter. The cell then uses the glucose for energy.

In type 2 diabetes the insulin stops helping the glucose to get into the cell. This could be because the cell door is furred up with fat deposits and the key no longer fits the lock or there is not enough insulin being produced to work alongside the glucose.


This causes the blood glucose (sugar) level to rise.

## Weigh the right way

When keeping a track of your weight it is important to get a good reliable reading. Here are a few tips to make sure you get it right.

- Always use the same scales (make sure they work)
- Place the scales on a hard surface, such as a tiled or wooden floor - carpet can affect the reading
- If you weigh yourself without shoes, continue to do so
- Only weigh yourself once a week - do it on the same day of the week and roughly the same time of day
- Remember, your weight will vary throughout the day depending on what you have eaten and what you have been doing


## Keep track of your progress on the chart below:

(tick the + column for weight gain and - column for weigh loss)

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## Food choices

Although each person's carbohydrate needs will be different depending on their energy requirements, it is recommended that each meal contains approximately $30-50 \mathrm{~g}$ of carbohydrate

## Breakfast

- 2 x Shredded wheat/Weetabix
- $2 \times$ medium slices of bread
- 5 tablespoons of corn flakes, bran flakes or fruit and fibre
- 4 tablespoons of porridge oats (dry)
- 2 tablespoons of muesli

All of these foods contain approximately 30 g of carbohydrate

## Meals

- $2 \times$ medium slices of bread, 3 inches of french stick or 1 bagel
- 1 medium chapatti, 1 standard pitta bread or $1 / 2$ large naan bread
- 4 rounded table spoons of cooked rice or 4 heaped tablespoons of cooked pasta
- 1 medium jacket potato
- 4 egg sized boiled potatoes or 4 tablespoons of mash
- 20 small chips
- 2 slices of yam or 1 small plantain
- $1 / 4$ pizza
- 2 medium Yorkshire puddings

All of these foods contain approximately $30-40 \mathrm{~g}$ of carbohydrate


This label on your food packets will tell you how much total carbohydrate is in this particular food item. It is important to look at the total amount of carbohydrate to work out how much is in the portion you are eating.

Eg. this label states that there is $\qquad$ of carbohydrate


Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh Government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

## Key messages

Eat at least five portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables every day.

Base meals on potatoes, bread, rice, pasta or other starchy carbohydrates; choosing wholegrain versions where possible.

## Have some dairy or dairy alternatives

 (such as soya drinks); choosing lower fat and lower sugar options.Eat some beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins (including two portions of fish every week, one of which should be oily).


Choose unsaturated oils and spreads and eat in small amounts.


Drink 6-8 cups / glasses of fluids per day.

If consuming foods high in fat, salt or sugar have these less often and in small amounts.

## Potatoes, bread, rice, pasta and other starchy carbohydrates

Starchy foods are a really important part of each meal. Try to have 5-6 portions per day if you are female, 6-8 per day if you are male. Try to choose the wholegrain types as these will help you feel fuller for longer.

These foods contain $B$ vitamins which help release energy from the food we eat and help the body to work properly.

Example:
Breakfast: wholegrain cereal (2 portions)

## Fruit and vegetables

Try to have at least 5 different types per day. During weight loss ensure you have the correct portion size of fruits and spread them out during the day.

These foods are full of essential vitamins and minerals which help protect us from life threatening diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, kidney disease, liver disease.

## Example:

Breakfast: chopped banana on cereal Lunch: mixed salad in or with a sandwich
Evening meal: 2-3 different types of vegetables Snacks: mid-morning (1 portion of fruit) mid-afternoon (1 portion of fruit)


## Dairy and alternatives

Dairy foods are a good source of calcium, which help keep our bones strong. Try to include 2-3 portions per day. Try to choose low fat and low sugar types.

Example: 3-4 cups of tea or coffee with skimmed or semi skimmed milk (1 portion)


## Beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins

Protein rich foods contain essential vitamins and minerals, these foods help our body to repair itself and provide us with a strong immune system. Too many of these foods are unnecessary and may lead to weight gain if eaten in excess, therefore only 2-3 portions per day is required.

## Example:

Lunch: sliced meat or tuna or beans (1 portion)


## Oils and spreads

Some fats are essential as part of a healthy balanced diet as they provide us with energy and some important vitamins (vitamin A and $D$ ). However, eating too much fat can be unhealthy.

Saturated fats (less healthy) e.g. butter and lard are solid at room temperature and are associated with increased risk of heart disease. Unsaturated fats are liquid at room temperature and considered to be healthier fats.

Choosing mono-unsaturated spreads and oils e.g. olive and rapeseed oil helps to lower the 'bad' cholesterol and increase the 'good' cholesterol. There are also poly-unsaturated fats e.g. sunflower, soy and sesame oils.

It's important to remember that all fats are high in energy (kcals) and portion sizes should be small.
Aim for 2-3 portions per day.

## Example:

1 tsp oil per person when cooking (1 portion)
1 tsp unsaturated spread per person
on bread (1 portion)


## Eat less often and in small amounts

This section now sits outside the main section of the Eatwell guide. These foods are higher in fat and sugar and provide little nutritional value to our diet. We can still enjoy them as


1 biscuit (1 portion)

## Drinks

Water, lower fat milk, sugar-free drinks including tea and coffee all count.

Aim to drink 6-8 glasses per day.
Note: Limit fruit juice and / or smoothies to a total of 150 ml a day.


## Finally...

Check the label on packaged foods.
Choose foods lower in fat, salt and sugars.


## Potatoes, bread, rice, pasta and other starchy carbohydrates

2-3 portions per meal =
5-6 portions per day for females 6-8 portions per day for males


Corn flakes (4-5 tablespoons)
$=2$ portions


Wheat biscuits (x2)
$=2$ portions


Bread (medium)
1 slice = 1 portion
2 slices $=2$ portions


2 crisp breads $=1$ portion


Bran flakes (4-5 tablespoons) = 2 portions


Porridge (4-5 tablespoons)
$=2$ portions


Bread roll (x1) $=1$ portion


3 cream crackers $=1$ portion


Chapati small $=1$ portion large $=2$ portions
 $8-10=2$ portions


Jacket potato (fist size) $=2$ portions


Cooked pasta (4-5 tablespoons) $=2$ portions


Cooked rice (4-5 tablespoons)

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\text { = } 2 \text { portions }
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Cooked spaghetti (4-5 tablespoons) $=2$ portions

## Vegetables

## Fruit

5 or more portions per day (each picture $=1$ portion)

## 2-3 portions per day (each picture = 1 portion)



Carrots ( $1 / 3$ of a plate)
= 1 portion


Peas ( $1 / 3$ of a plate) $=1$ portion


Mini sweetcorn ( $1 / 3$ of a plate) $=1$ portion


Cauliflower (1/3 of a plate)

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\text { = } 1 \text { portion }
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Mixed salad ( $1 / 3$ of a plate)

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\text { = } 1 \text { portion }
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Okra ( $1 / 3$ of a plate)
= 1 portion


Broccoli ( $1 / 3$ of a plate) $=1$ portion


Sprouts (1/3 of a plate) $=1$ portion


Fresh orange (150mls) = 1 portion


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\text { = } 1 \text { portion }
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Cherries (handful) $=1$ portion


Apricots (x2 small) $=1$ portion


Satsumas (x2 small) $=1$ portion


Plums (x2 small) $=1$ portion


Raisins ( $1 / 2$ handful) $=1$ portion


Dried apricots (x3) $=1$ portion


Orange (handful size)
$=1$ portion


Apple (handful size)

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\text { = } 1 \text { portion }
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Grapes (handful) $=1$ portion


Strawberries (handful) $=1$ portion

## Beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins

## 2-3 portions per day (each picture = 1 portion)



Eggs (x2)


Pork/lamb chop 2-3oz / 50-70g (x1 palm of the hand)
x1 palm


Sausages (x2 thin)


Steak 2-3oz / 50-70g (x1 palm of the hand)


Sardines


Chickpeas (x1 palm of the hand)


Green lentils (x1 palm of the hand)


Soya mince


Butter beans
(x1 palm of the hand)


Baked beans (x1 palm of the hand)


Red lentils (x1 palm of the hand)


Red kidney beans (x1 palm of the hand)


Cannellini beans (x1 palm of the hand)

## Dairy and alternatives (calcium rich foods)

2-3 portions per day (each picture $=1$ portion)


Milk ( $1 / 3$ of a pint)


Cheese slice


Cottage cheese (small pot)



Soya milk


Low fat soft cheese


## Oils and spreads

2-3 portions per day (each picture = 1 portion)


Low fat spread ( $5 \mathrm{~g} / 1$ teaspoon)


Mono or poly-unsaturated oil
( $5 \mathrm{~g} / 1$ teaspoon)

## Eat less often and in small amounts

## Foods high in fats and sugars



Sugar (5g / 1 teaspoon) Tomato sauce/salad cream


Scone ( $x^{1 / 2}$ )


Fun size chocolate bar
 ( $5 \mathrm{~g} / 1$ teaspoon)


Plain digestive biscuit


Biscuit bar
(19)

Peanuts ( $1 / 2$ handful)


Orange sponge biscuit


Crisps (25-30g bag)

## Think about what you drink

## What is a unit?



A UK unit is 10 ml of pure alcohol

199 calories

556 calories
200 calories

NHS Choices (2015) "Physical activity guidelines for older adults"

## Getting more active

1. Set weekly activity targets
2. Incorporate 30 minutes of moderate to intense activity such as:

- Walking to the shop instead of taking the car
- Go for a walk every day - increase the distance gradually
- Take the stairs instead of the lift
- Get off the bus 1 or 2 stops earlier and walk the rest of the way

Try new activities - look

- Rigorous housework
- Gardening
- Ballroom dancing in on your local leisure centre and see what inspires you
Balroom dancing
www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/physical-activity-guidelines-for-older-adults.aspx Accessed 03/11/17

The maximum recommended number of units for men and women is currently 14 units a week ideally not all in one go and at least 2 days alcohol free.

## Check your habits

|  | Yes | No |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Are you eating regular meals? <br> (breakfast, lunch and evening meal) |  |  |
| Do you think about your portion size? |  |  |
| Do you snack between meals? |  |  |
| Do you eat 5 portions of fruit or veg per day? |  |  |
| Do you eat/drink too many foods that are high in <br> fat and sugar? |  |  |
| Do you regularly use cooking oil, butter or ghee? |  |  |
| Do you regularly eat out in restaurants/cafés, have <br> takeaways or buy pre-pack meals? |  |  |
| Do you do any moderate physical exercise? <br> (anything that makes your heart beat faster) |  |  |
| Do you sit down for most of the day? |  |  |
| Do you drink more than the recommended daily <br> alcohol units per week? |  |  |
| Do you eat supper? |  |  |

## Why little healthy changes mean a lot



## Here are examples of some small daily changes

## Notes



Cut out the extra 2 slices of toast with spread
= 300kcals

Do 30 minutes walking
= 180kcals


Making both these changes everyday could help you to lose up to 1 lb in 1 week


Cut out 60 grams of crisps $=300 \mathrm{kcals}$
+
Do 40 minutes gardening

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=200 \mathrm{kcals}
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Making both these changes everyday could help you to lose up to 1 lb in 1 week

Remember, by doing physical activity, as well as burning energy (kcal), you can increase the amount of muscle you have. The more muscle you have, the more calories you will burn each day. Your weight may not change on the weighing scales but your body size will appear smaller.
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Email: longtermconditions@nhs.net
www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk

