

# Level 5 - Minced and Moist Diet

Information for patients, relatives and carers



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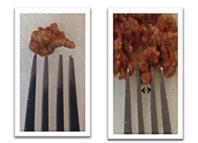


# **Description / Characteristics**

- Food is finely minced, mashed or chopped
- Soft and moist with no thin liquid
- Biting is not required
- Can be eaten with a fork or spoon
- Can be scooped and shaped (e.g. into a ball shape) on a plate
- Small lumps visible within the food
- Lumps are easy to squash with tongue
- Not of a sticky consistency
- Meat must be pureed if it can not be finely minced.

# **Food Size**

Pieces or lumps of food do not exceed 4mm.



# **Test Methods**

#### Fork/Spoon test

- Foods should easily mash when pressed by a fork (with little pressure)
- Particles should easily separate and come through the prongs of a fork
- A scooped sample should hold its shape / mound on a fork / spoon.

#### **Finger test**

It is possible to easily hold a sample of this texture using fingers; small soft, smooth, rounded particles can be easily squashed between fingers. The material will feel moist and leave fingers wet.

## Meal preparation tips:

- It is important that meals look attractive and appetising
- Where available use food moulds, scoops, potato scoop or pipe to separate the different components of the meal
- Ensure foods are well cooked and season to add taste
- To maintain their nutritional quality always mash foods with nutritious fluids, e.g. gravy, sauces, milk or juices.
- No regular dry bread due to high choke risk. See this link for instructions on how to make a level 5 Minced and Moist sandwich:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7bOufqmz18

# **Check before serving/eating**

- No hard pieces, crusts or skins have formed during cooking/heating/ standing
- Fluid/gravy/sauce/coats the food, no separate thin liquid.

## Important

Sauces can be used to moisten the meal, and hold it together - ensure that any excess liquid is drained.



# How to have a balanced diet:

## To maintain health, it is important to eat a balanced diet, therefore try to include the following food groups and portions:

- Carbohydrates: e.g. potatoes, rice, pasta, and cereal (include a portion at each meal meal / 3 portions per day)
- Protein: e.g. fish, meat, chicken, eggs, lentils, meat alternatives, e.g. tofu or Quorn (2-3 portions per day)
- Fruit and vegetables: e.g. banana, carrot, broccoli (5 portions per day)
- Dairy: e.g. cheese, yoghurt, milk or alternatives (3 portions per day)
- High fibre: e.g. oats and wholegrains and fruit (include a portion at each meal / 3 portions per day).

## Meal ideas:

#### Breakfast:

- Soft fruit served mashed (e.g. banana, tinned peaches, stewed apple).
  Drain away any juice that has separated. Smooth yoghurt/fromage frais
- Weetabix, rice crispies or cornflakes with milk fully absorbed and soft fruit (drained and mashed into the cereal)
- Thick smooth porridge with small, soft lumps, or instant oats with milk
- Homemade smoothie (e.g. fruit, oats and milk)
- Scrambled, boiled or poached egg. Finely mashed and sauce added.

## Light meals:

- Cream of soups (check fluid recommendations) with bread blended into the soup
- Omelette mashed with a cheese sauce
- Jacket potato filling mashed with tuna mayonnaise or cream cheese
- Tinned pasta meals e.g. ravioli, macaroni cheese, spaghetti bolognese
- Filling of a quiche mashed.

### Main meals:

Ensure to have a portion of protein, carbohydrate and vegetables.

- Finely minced meats with very thick gravy
- Thick mashed stew or casserole
- Corned beef hash (mashed)
- Cottage/shepherd's pie (mashed)





- Soft pasta and sauce (mashed)
- Chilli con carne with rice (finely mashed)
- Chicken curry with rice (chicken and other curry ingredients must be finely chopped)
- Lamb/chicken with soft noodles in a Dhal sauce (lamb/chicken must be finely chopped)
- Finely mashed fish in a thick sauce. Can be served with mashed vegetables (carrots, broccoli, cauliflower).

## Make your own meals:

- Finely minced meat, chicken or alternative with sauces, e.g. white or cheese sauce, gravy, cranberry, mint or horseradish
- Finely mashed salmon with thick hollandaise sauce or white fish with parsley/butter sauce.

Served with:

- Mashed potato, sweet potato or rice. Rice must be cooked soft and served with a sauce, the sauce must not separate from the rice
- Mashed vegetables, e.g. carrots, cauliflower/cheese, broccoli, parnsips, mushy peas, butternut squash.

## **Desserts:**

- Crème Caramel
- Mousse or instant whip
- Milk pudding e.g. rice pudding, semolina, sago, tapioca.
- Pots of yoghurts, 'muller rice'.

- Stewed or mashed soft fruit (drain away any juice that has separated).
  Can be served with thick custard or cream
- Panacotta
- Fruit fool
- Cheesecake topping
- Egg custard filling
- Plain cake mashed with cream or custard
- Dunked and soaked plain biscuits.





# What if I need to gain weight?

- Eat on a little and often basis
- Add additional double cream, sauces, butter, cheese, dried milk powder, or full fat milk or enriched milk to your meals and instead of your meals and desserts
- Add sugar, jam, honey or syrups to cereal and desserts
- Avoid all low fat or 'light' products
- Use full fat or thick and creamy food products
- Try to have a dessert or high calorie snack between meals
- Try to have a dessert or pudding after main meals
- Avoid drinks just before meals
- Try to have milky/nourishing drinks between meals.



# **Getting help:**

If you notice changes to your own swallow (eating / drinking), or that of an individual you support or care for, please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy Team for advice.

## **Doncaster Speech and Language Therapy Service**

03000 218996

If you notice a reduction in appetite or weight, or that of an individual you support or care for, please contact your local Dietetic Team for advice.

## **Doncaster Dietetic Service**

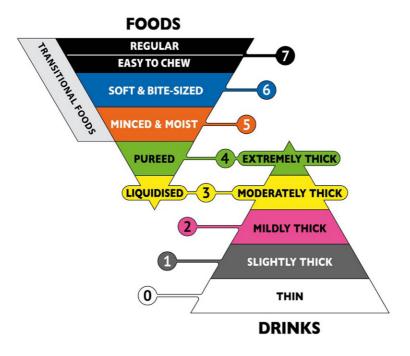
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# Adult Learning Disability Team Speech and Language Therapy Service

03000 212878



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