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## High protein, high calorie eating in Diabetes



University Hospitals Sussex  
NHS Foundation Trust



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## Meal Providers and Deliveries

If you are feeling unwell or don't have the strength to cook it can be useful to have some help with your meals.

Ready prepared meals can be bought from most shops, and you can heat these up at home.

These companies deliver frozen ready prepared meals to your home. You can telephone them to ask for information or a brochure:

Wiltshire Farm Foods 01444 881926

Sussex FarmHouse Meals 0845 070 2222

Oakhouse Foods 0845 643 2009

For hot meal deliveries you can contact your local council and ask about Meals on Wheels.

This company also delivers hot meals:

Martins (Shoreham, Worthing Littlehampton, Findon Valley) 01903 202525



## Little and Often

When you have a small appetite you may only feel like eating small amounts at meal times. This means it is important to keep some snacks and drinks at hand to have between meals. Try to eat and drink something every 2-3 hours.

### Ideas for Nourishing Light Meals and Snacks

- Cheese and crackers
- Nourishing drink (see page 7)
- Banana
- Toast with baked beans/cheese/mackerel/avocado/eggs/nut butter on toast
- Greek Yoghurt with berries
- Ham/cheese omelette
- A handful of nuts
- Sandwich made with granary bread and a high protein filling, e.g. ham, cheese, chicken or egg
- Protein based 'Cream of' soup or pulse based soup with a slice of bread, or a bread roll
- Hot chocolate made with cocoa
- Low sugar malted milk drink
- Nut butter on oatcakes
- Mini cheese
- Lean cooked meats



### Carbohydrates

You do not need to cut these out completely when you have diabetes.

Sources of carbohydrate include

- **Starches**—breads, rice, pasta, potatoes, cereal
- **Added Sugars**—cakes, biscuits, drinks, ready made sauces or soups, condiments such as chutney, ketchup, BBQ sauce/
- **Fruit (Fructose)** - all fruits, dried fruit, fruit juice or smoothies
- **Milk sugars (Lactose)** — all milk, yoghurts

If you have Type 1 diabetes you should adjust your insulin according to your carbohydrate intake at meals.

If you have Type 2 diabetes try to limit carbohydrates to no more than 1 fist size portion per meal. Some Type 2 diabetes medications mean that you do need to have some carbohydrates at each meal (e.g. Gliclazide, twice daily mixed insulin such as NovoMix 30, Humalog Mix 25/50, Humulin M3) If you take other tablets or are on basal bolus insulin then you can have carbohydrate free meals.

Try to limit added sugars and keep fruit to 1 handful at a time.

Try to choose slow release, high fibre carbohydrates:

- Granary or rye bread
- Basmati or brown rice
- Wholemeal pasta
- Other grains such as quinoa, buckwheat, couscous
- Sweet potatoes
- Boiled potatoes with skin on
- Oats



Prepare meals in advance when you feel like cooking. Make and freeze extra portions that can be used when you don't have the energy to cook.

Ready-made meals can be useful on days when you don't feel like cooking.

If you rely on others to help to prepare your meals keep a flask of nourishing drink and a snack nearby to have between meals.

Avoid filling up on large drinks with your meals – try having a drink half an hour before or after.



## Nutritional Supplement Drinks

It is better to use everyday foods and nourishing drinks first but if you are not managing enough food or enough variety of foods, then supplement drinks can be used between meals or as part of a meal.

Dietary supplements that do not need a prescription such as Complan or Build-up/Meritene can be found in chemists and in some supermarkets. They have some extra energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. There are a range of sweet, milkshake style flavours, and savoury soup-style flavours. They can be made up with milk or with water, depending on what you prefer, but using milk will add more goodness. Soup options will likely be lower in sugar

### Prescribed Nutritional Supplements

If following the previous advice is not enough to meet your nutritional needs you may need to have some prescribed nutritional supplement drinks. Your dietitian can advise you on the correct supplements to suit your needs and organise a prescription with your GP.



### Protein

Protein is a very important nutrient to help maintain or repair muscle and lean body mass. It does not directly affect blood glucose levels

Try to include 1 source of protein at each. Sources of protein include

- Meat
- Fish
- Chicken
- Eggs
- Cheese
- Beans / pulses
- Tofu, Quorn, tempeh, seitan



### Fats

Are a good source of calories when trying to gain weight. Try to include some healthy fats with meals or as snacks

- Nuts and nut butters including almonds
- Seeds can be added to salads, soups or porridge
  - Olive oil can be used for salad dressings
    - Avocado



## Fortifying Food

When you have a poor appetite it can be difficult to increase the amount you eat at meals in order to take in extra kcal. Instead of eating more food you can fortify meals with high kcal extras

Examples of food fortifiers:

- Add oil or butter to potatoes and vegetables. Use oil or butter to fry meat, fish or eggs.
- Add grated cheese to pasta dishes, omelette, soups, salads, potatoes, vegetables and use as a topping on oven-baked dishes, e.g. shepherd's pie.
- Add cream to scrambled egg, soup, sauces, puddings, and fruit.
- Add mayonnaise, cream cheese or peanut butter to sandwiches, bread, toast, crumpets or crackers.
- Add nuts, seeds, avocado, full fat yogurt, dried fruit, custard or chopped egg to a variety of foods.
- Add nut butters to porridge
- Have low sugar nut butter or avocado on toast instead of just spread or a high sugar option like jam.



## Nourishing Drinks

Drinks can be a really useful way to get some nourishment without the feelings of fullness you may get with eating. In place of some of your usual drinks try milk or soup.

Milk is very nourishing. Try using a pint (568 ml) of full cream milk each day. It could be used in cold or hot drinks, sweet and savoury sauces, milky puddings, in milkshakes or as a drink on its own.

To make it more nourishing, try adding 4 tablespoons of skimmed milk powder to 1 pint of milk. This is known as Fortified Milk and contains extra protein.

Soup can be a comforting and nutritious drink. The thicker, creamy varieties with some beans, dumplings or croutons provide some extra energy.

