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| **Eating Well with Pressure Sores or Leg Ulcers** |
| Patient Information Leaflet |

**Introduction**

A balanced diet is vital in combination with any medical treatment you may receive to help your pressure sores or leg ulcers heal. This leaflet provides you with advice and tips to help you get the most nourishment out of your meals and snacks.



**Eating well**

* Base your meals on **starchy foods** such as bread, cereals, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain varieties whenever you can as they contain more fibre and are digested more slowly helping you feel fuller for longer. Starchy foods are a good source of energy, calcium, iron and B vitamins.
* Try to have at least **5 portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables** every day. One portion equals 80g, a small handful or 3 heaped tablespoons of vegetables. Choose fresh, frozen, tinned or dried as they are rich in vitamins and minerals. These help to make new tissue to heal your pressure sores or leg ulcers.
	+ **Vitamin C** helps with healing. Good sources include bell peppers, broccoli, brussel sprouts, strawberries, kiwis, oranges and pineapple.
	+ **Zinc** also plays an important role in wound healing. Meat, salmon, dairy foods, beans, brown rice, potato and wholegrain cereals are rich in zinc.
* Aim for **3 portions** of lean cuts of meat, fish, eggs and pulses (beans and lentils) every day. These are good sources of protein which will help to make new skin tissue. Cut off any visible fat from meat.
* Try to have **a pint of milk a day or the equivalent** e.g. a small pot of yoghurt, a piece of cheese (matchbox size) and 1/3 pint milk. These are also a good source of protein, vitamins and minerals. Choose reduced fat versions where possible.
* **Limit your intake** of foods high in saturated fat, sugar and salt.

**Drinking well**

This helps you to avoid becoming dehydrated. It also helps your wounds to heal. Aim for 6-8 glasses a day:

* + Keep a drink beside you at all times and sip it often.
	+ Semi-skimmed/skimmed milk, hot chocolate, and Horlicks are all good choices. The protein in milk helps to heal wounds.
	+ A small glass of fruit juice (not from concentrate) or smoothie is a good source of vitamins and minerals.

**Main meal ideas Snack ideas Pudding ideas**

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| Soup with chicken and vegetablesScrambled eggs with toast and tinned tomatoesMeat or lentil curry with vegetables and ricePoached fish with white sauce, potatoes and garden peasShepherd’s pie with carrotsSandwich with low fat cheese, egg, ham or fish | Apple/bananaLight yoghurtPitta or naan bread with pate or soft cheese and picklesLight/low fat houmous with cracker/flatbreadOatcakes with low fat cream cheeseSmall slice fruit loafFruit scone with low fat spread | Rice pudding, tapioca, semolina with added dried fruitLight Custard with stewed appleFrozen lower fat yoghurt with mixed berriesLow sugar jelly with fruitSmall pancake with fruitLow fat yoghurt with strawberries |

**Additional Information**

* Diabetes – High blood sugar levels can impair wound healing. Speak to your GP or Dietitian for advice on ways to control your levels.
* Multivitamin and mineral supplements – These may be recommended if your GP or Dietitian thinks you need them.
* Being overweight can affect your pressure sores or leg ulcers healing. If you are interested in managing your weight speak to your GP who can refer you to a Dietitian for advice.

**Contact us**

If you have any further questions about this leaflet the Dietitians contact details are shown below.

**Acute Dietitians**

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| **If you would like this leaflet in a different format, for example, in large print, or on audiotape, or for people with learning disabilities, please contact:**Patient and Customer Services, Poplar Suite, Stepping Hill Hospital. Tel: 0161 419 5678. Email: PCS@stockport.nhs.uk.  |

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