Children's Hospital

## What to eat with Type 1 Diabetes

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease which causes the pancreas to stop making insulin. Eating for type 1 diabetes is more about matching insulin to your child/teen's food intake than changing the foods they eat. Your child/teen can eat the same foods as the rest of your family. They do not need special or sugar-free foods. Your registered dietitian will help you to include sweet foods and treats for special occasions, such as birthday parties and Halloween.

## Carbohydrate

Carbohydrates are the main part of food that needs insulin to make energy. Your child/teen needs carbohydrates for their energy, growth, and development. Measuring their carbohydrate intake will help you and your medical team to learn how much insulin they need.

This handout is a beginner's guide to "carbohydrate counting". It will help you and your child/teen to know which foods have carbohydrates in them, and how much.

Name: $\qquad$
Dietitian: $\qquad$
Phone: $\qquad$

## What to Eat with Type 1 Diabetes

Reading the Nutrition Facts Table on food labels is the best way to find out the grams of carbohydrate in a food. The following is a beginner's guide to carbohydrate counting.

| Starch foods - Each has 15 grams of carbohydrate in the serving size listed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bagel <br> $1 / 4$ large <br> $1 / 2$ small | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Bread } \\ & 1 \text { slice } \end{aligned}$ | Whole Grain Crackers 6 | Cold Cereal * $1 / 2$ cup | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Croissant } \\ & 1 / 2 \end{aligned}$ | English Muffin $1 / 2$ | French Fries 10 | Hot Cereal $3 / 4$ cup cooked | Hot Dog/ Hamburger Bun $1 / 2$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Hummus ** } \\ & 1 / 3 \text { cup } \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | yeta |  |  |
| Lasagna 2/3 cup | Legumes** <br> (Black beans, chickpeas, kidney beans, lentils) $1 / 2$ cup | Potato <br> $1 / 2$ medium | Thin Breads <br> Pita Bread, <br> Tortilla <br> $1 / 26^{\prime \prime}$ pita <br> 1 whole, $7^{\prime \prime}$ | Thick Breads <br> Naan, Chapati/ <br> Roti, Dosa <br> $1 / 4$ of 6 " <br> 1 whole, 6" <br> 1 whole, 10" | Taco Shell 25 " shells | Dinner Roll 1 small | Quinoa, Wheat, Barley, Bulgar $1 / 2$ cup, cooked | Rice <br> 1/3 cup, cooked | Soup $1 \text { cup }$ |
| yeve |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spaghetti, Pasta $1 / 2$ cup, cooked | Pancakes, Waffles 3" diameter | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Pizza * } \\ & 1 / 2 \text { slice } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Starchy Vegetables - Each has 10 grams of carbohydrate in the serving size listed


Fruits - Each has 10 grams of carbohydrate in the serving size listed

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0=1 \\ \therefore=0 \end{array}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tangarine, Mandarin Orange, Clementine 1 medium | Orange <br> 1 small | Kiwi <br> 1 medium | Peach 1 medium | Apple or Pear $1 / 2$ medium | Cherries 10 cherries | Unsweetened Apple Sauce* 1/ cup or 1 small container | Apple or Orange Juice* 1/3 cup | Plums <br> 2 medium | Strawberries 1 cup |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Raspberries $1 \text { cup }$ | Blackberries $11 / 2$ cup | Blueberries $1 / 2$ cup | Cut Up Fruit $1 / 2$ cup | Watermelon 1 cup, diced | Pineapple <br> $1 / 2$ cup, diced | Banana $1 / 2$ small | Grapes 10 grapes | Dates, pitted 2 dates | Raisins <br> 2 tbsp or <br> 1/3 miniature box |

Milk \& Alternatives - Each has 15 grams of carbohydrate in the serving size listed


## Other choices - Each has 10 grams of carbohydrate



## Protein－Each has 0 grams of carbohydrate



Protein－Each has 5 grams of carbohydrate in the serving size listed


| Vegetables－Each has 0 grams of carbohydrate |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 新教 | d | Ne |  |
| Cabbage | Lettuce | Tomato | Cucumber | Zucchini | Cauliflower | Celery | Onions | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Beans } \\ & \text { (Yellow or Green) } \end{aligned}$ | Bean Sprouts |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $C$ | 些数 |  |
| Spinach | Greens | Radishes | Peppers | Broccoli | Brussels Sprouts | Asparagus | Mushrooms | Parsley | Rhubarb |

Fats \＆Oils－Each has $\mathbf{0}$ grams of carbohydrate


Carbohydrate Free－Each has less than 5 in the serving size listed，but may contain more carbohydrates if eaten in large amounts．Be sure to check the label．

＊The carbohydrate amount in this food varies greatly depending on the brand／variety．
Read the＂Nutrition Facts＂table on the product label to find the amount of carbohydrate．

## How do I read food labels?

To count grams of carbohydrate on a food label:
Old Mill

1. Look for the:

Serving size


## 2. Subtract the Fibre grams from the Carbohydrate grams.

This equals the available carbohydrate in 1 serving.

| Carbohydrate | 39 g |
| :--- | ---: |
| Fibre | $\underline{-4 \mathrm{~g}}$ |
| Available carbohydrate | 35 g |

1 Old Mill bagel contains
35 g available carbohydrate.

| Carbohydrate Targets |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Breakfast | Morning <br> Snack | Lunch | Afternoon <br> Snack | Dinner | Evening <br> Snack |  |
| Time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carbohydrate <br> Target | g | g | g | g | g | g |  |

## What to Eat with Type 1 Diabetes

## Snacks

The amount of carbohydrate your child/teen needs between meals will vary, based on their age and activity level. Active children may need to eat carbohydrate-rich snacks between meals, however, low-carbohydrate or carbohydrate-free foods are great snack choices for all ages, anytime. These include most vegetables, meat, cheese, and nuts and seeds (in moderation).

Some children/teens need insulin for carbohydrate-rich snacks. Aim for your child/teen to finish eating carbohydrate-rich snacks 2 hours before their next meal. This will help their blood sugar level be more stable. Your Registered Dietitian will help you to choose snacks for your child/teen.

## Hunger

It is normal for your child/teen to be very hungry after developing diabetes. Unusual hunger goes away after a few weeks. Follow the carbohydrate targets agreed upon with your Registered Dietitian. If needed, these targets can be changed with the help of your medical team and/or Registered Dietitian. If your child/teen is still hungry after eating their meal/snack, offer low carbohydrate or carbohydrate-free foods to fill them up.

