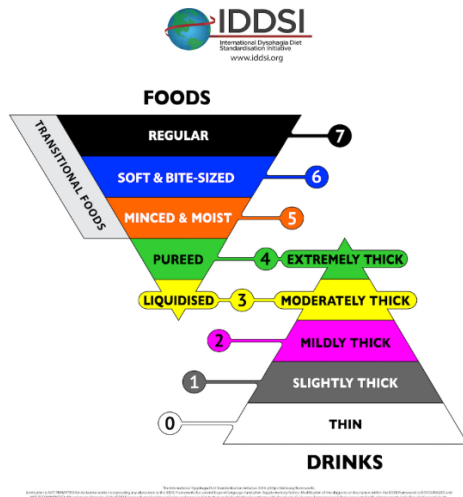


Communication for Physicians, Residents, Medical, Directors, Clinical Managers, Nursing

Hamilton Health Sciences will be adopting IDDSI within our organization June 25th, 2019. We would like to introduce you to IDDSI and our initiatives on implementing it at various locations we service.



What is IDDSI?

- International Dysphagia Diet Standardization Initiative (IDDSI)
- A **global standard** with terminology and definitions to describe texture modified foods and thickened liquids
- Used for individuals with **dysphagia** of all ages, in **all care settings**, and for **all cultures**.
- The IDDSI framework consists of a continuum of 8 levels (0-7).
- Levels are identified by text labels, numbers, and colour codes to improve safety and identification.

Why Implement IDDSI?

- Standardizes the diet order, diet descriptors across different care setting (acute care, long term care, continuing care and healthcare professionals)
- Eliminate errors when patients/residents move between facilities or different care settings
- The standardized descriptors and testing methods will allow for **consistent production** and easy testing of thickened liquids and texture modified foods.

What is **HHS** Nutrition Services together with our Allied Health Professional partners doing?

1. We have been testing the recipes on our current menus to categorize them into IDDSI levels
2. We have been working with our suppliers to ensure the products purchased are compliant with IDDSI levels.
3. Our frontline staff are learning the IDDSI terminology starting Spring 2019 and a comprehensive communication strategy is being developed and targeted to medical, nursing and program staff.
4. The 1st phase of implementation will be thickened fluids (June 25th, 2019) and the 2nd phase will be texture modified diets (TBA late 2019).

How does this affect you?

1. The diets offered by Nutrition Services and orders written by medical and allied health staff will incorporate the IDDSI terminology for thickened fluids starting June 25th, 2019.
2. Meditech will add the IDDSI diet terminology for thickened fluids, and will maintain dual for 6 months (e.g. SLIGHT THK FLUIDS; MILD/NECTAR THK FLUIDS; MOD/HONEY THK FLUID; EXTREME/PDG THK FLUID; NO FLUIDS ON TRAY).
3. The default consistency for unspecified thickened fluids will decrease. In Meditech this will read as: UNTIL SPECIFIED - MILD/NECTAR THK
4. Familiarizing yourself with the terminology will ensure all health care professionals are speaking the same language. Please see link: <http://iddsi.org/Documents/IDDSIFramework-CompleteFramework.pdf>