

healthy eating guide

Healthy eating is important for everyone, including people with diabetes. As separate meals for people with diabetes are not necessary, family and friends can enjoy the same healthy and tasty meals together.

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
Mon	Porridge (1/2 cup raw rolled oats) made with 1/2 cup skim/low fat milk and water. 1 tbsp sultanas.	1/2 cup baked beans. 2 slices of wholegrain toast, 2 teaspoons margarine. 1 cup of salad.	65–100g cooked skinless chicken breast. 2/3 cup cooked Basmati or Doongara rice. 1 1/2 cups cooked vegetables. 200g diet fruit yoghurt.
Tues	1/2 cup untoasted muesli with 1/2 cup skim/low fat milk. 3 prunes. 10g sunflower seeds.	1 wholegrain bread roll, 2 teaspoons margarine, 40g low/reduced fat cheese, lots of salad vegetables. 1 small pear.	65–100g cooked lean beef. 1 corn cob. 1 1/2 cups cooked vegetables. 1/2 cup low fat custard.
Wed	1 slice wholegrain toast, 1 tspn margarine, Vegemite® or 100% fruit jam. 1 fruit smoothie – blend 5 large strawberries, 1/2 banana, 250mL low fat/ skim milk, 2 scoops low fat ice cream.	95g can of tuna (springwater), 1 cup of salad vegetables, 2 slices wholegrain bread, 2 teaspoons margarine. 200g diet fruit yoghurt.	Tomato based pasta sauce with 1 cup cooked pasta. 1 1/2 cups cooked vegetables. 30g unsalted pine nuts.

This 7 day meal plan is a basic guide to healthy eating. It is recommended that you see an Accredited Practising Dietitian for more specific and individualised advice to meet your needs.



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BREAKFAST

Thurs 3/4 cup All Bran®.
1/2 cup skim/low fat
milk. 1 thin slice heavy
fruit based bread,
1 teaspoon margarine.

Fri 1/2 cup creamed corn.
2 slices wholegrain
toast, 2 teaspoons
margarine.

Sat 1 cup Guardian® with
1/2 cup skim/low fat
milk. 100g low fat fruit
yoghurt. 1/2 cup
canned fruit in natural
juice, drained.

Sun 1 cup fresh fruit salad.
2 slices of wholegrain
bread, 2 teaspoons
margarine. 1 poached
egg. Mushrooms and
tomatoes grilled.

LUNCH

1/2 cup corn kernels,
1 cup salad greens.
1 wholegrain bread
roll, 2 teaspoons
margarine.

2 slices of reduced
fat cheese (40g),
1 tomato on wholegrain
roll with 2 teaspoons
margarine – try grilling
each half. 1/2 cup
fresh fruit salad.

2 cups of salad
vegetables. 2 slices
wholegrain bread,
2 slices avocado.
1 large orange.

1 cup of salad
vegetables on
medium wholemeal
pita bread. 200g diet
fruit yoghurt.

DINNER

120g fish fillet grilled.
1/2 cup sweet potato,
mashed. 1 cup cooked
vegetables. 1/2 cup low
fat custard. 1/2 cup canned
fruit in natural juice.

65–100g cooked
skinless chicken breast.
1/2 corn cob. 1 1/2
cups salad vegetables.
3/4 cup pasta salad
with low fat dressing.
200g diet fruit yoghurt.

65–100g cooked
lean beef mince
cooked in tomato
based sauce. 1 cup
cooked pasta. 1 cup
cooked vegetables.
40g grated reduced/
low fat cheese.

90g cooked lean
roast lamb. 1 medium
potato in jacket.
1/2 cup sweet potato.
1 cup cooked
vegetables. 1 thin slice
heavy fruit based bread,
1 teaspoon margarine.

Points to remember

- When 'cooked vegetables' or 'salad vegetables' appear on the meal plan, it refers to vegetables that contain small quantities of carbohydrate, sometimes referred to as 'free' vegetables. These do not include potato, sweet potato, corn, taro or parsnip.
- Each meal provides approximately 45g carbohydrate when nutritionally analysed.
- Feel free to add herbs, spices, lemon juice, vinegar and pepper to enhance the flavour. Also use small amounts of mustards, chutneys and relishes (watch the salt content) or low fat dips and spreads (eg: hummus, baba ghanoush, tsatsiki) or make up your own tasty dressings with low fat plain yoghurt mixed with lemon juice and a variety of fresh, chopped herbs.
- Choose margarines based on unsaturated fats (eg: olive, canola, sunflower, safflower). Compare labels and choose those that are low in saturated fat and contain less than 1g per 100g of trans fat. Use small amounts of unsaturated oils in cooking.

Healthy snacks

For some people it is recommended they include a small amount of food containing carbohydrate between meals. This often depends on body weight, physical activity levels and the type of medication required to manage your diabetes.

Suitable snacks may include a small glass of low fat milk, a low fat or diet yoghurt, a serve of fruit (fresh, tinned in natural juice or dried), a slice of heavy fruit based bread, a wholemeal crumpet, a small bowl of a high fibre breakfast cereal or some high fibre low fat crackers such as Vita Weats®.

For more information see the *Healthy Snacks and Diabetes* information sheet.

It is important to discuss your individual needs with your dietitian (APD), diabetes educator or doctor.

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Healthy eating tips

- > Make sure you eat 3 regular meals a day.
- > Include small quantities of carbohydrate foods at each meal.
- > Eat 2 serves of fruit each day (fresh, tinned in natural juice, dried or frozen).
- > Eat at least 5 serves of vegetables each day (fresh, canned or frozen). One serve equals 1/2 cup cooked vegetables, 1 cup salad vegetables or 1 medium potato. Try nibbling on salad vegetables during the day if hungry like a carrot, tomato, celery.
- > Include low fat dairy foods each day. The daily amount you need depends on your age and gender so ask your dietitian for specific advice.
- > Ideally include at least one low GI food at each meal.
- > Choose foods that are low in salt.
- > Drink plenty of water and limit juices, regular soft drinks and cordials.
- > If you drink alcohol, aim for no more than 2 standard drinks a day*. A standard drink is equivalent to a middy (285mL) of beer, a small glass of wine (100mL) or a nip of spirits (30mL). Try to drink alcohol with a meal and include alcohol-free days.
Some people may need to have less alcohol due to their age, medication or the need to lose weight. Discuss alcohol with your doctor.

* NHMRC, Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol (2009).

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