

East and North Hertfordshire

## Department of Renal Medicine

# Patient Dietary Advice – Following a Low Salt, Potassium and Phosphate Diet

## Introduction

When you have impaired kidney function, following a number of different dietary restrictions can be confusing and complex. This diet sheet combines information to assist you in following a diet that is low in potassium, phosphate and salt. Only follow this combined dietary advice if you have been advised to do so by your doctor or dietitian.

### How can I reduce my intake of potassium, phosphate and salt?

Most of the salt in your diet comes from processed, packaged and takeaway foods. These foods often use additives that contain potassium and phosphate to add flavour, prolong the shelf life and adjust the acidity of the food. Reducing your intake of processed, packaged and takeaway foods can have a positive impact on your health.

## Reduce your intake of foods high in potassium, phosphate and salt

| Reduce intake  | Better choices  |
|--|---|
| Fruits:<br>Limit fruits to two small portions per day<br>Restrict bananas, avocado, rhubarb, apricot, kiwi,<br>dried fruit, grapes, coconut and blackcurrants  | Apples, pears, canned fruit, satsumas, peaches, nectarines, berries, lemon/lime   |
| Vegetables:<br>Fried, roasted or chipped vegetables unless<br>pre-boiled<br>Potato wedges, hash browns, waffles, instant mash<br>Stir fried, steamed and microwaved vegetables<br>Mushrooms, tomato puree, spinach<br>Potato pakoras, okra, callaloo, breadfruit, taro and<br>plantain   | Limit vegetables to 2-3 servings per day<br>Limit salad to one side salad per day (in<br>place of a vegetable portion)<br>Choose boiled vegetables<br>Cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn,<br>cucumber, green beans, peas, peppers,<br>swede, frozen mixed vegetables<br>Fresh herbs and spices         |
| Meat, fish and alternatives:<br>Processed, salted and smoked meats, e.g. ham,<br>sausages, bacon, breaded chicken, pate<br>Offal, e.g. liver and kidney<br>Smoked, salted fish and manufactured fish products<br>Shellfish and fish with edible bones, e.g. tinned<br>salmon, sardines and pilchards<br>Limit total intake of eggs to 3-4 per week | Fresh meat, such as chicken, turkey, lamb,<br>pork and beef<br>Fresh white fish, e.g. haddock, cod<br>Fresh oily fish, e.g. mackerel, tuna and<br>salmon<br>Boiled pulses (lentils and legumes) can be<br>eaten as part of your vegetable allowance,<br>or used as a substitute for meat<br>Quorn, Tofu |

| Reduce intake   | Better choices   |
|---|--|
| Breads, cereals and grains:<br>Breads and cereal containing bran, nuts, chocolate<br>or dried fruit (All Bran, muesli, fruit loaf)  | Cereals not containing bran, chocolate or<br>nuts (Weetabix, porridge, shredded wheat)<br>Pasta, rice, bread, noodles, quinoa,<br>couscous   |
| Dairy and alternatives:<br>Limit dairy milk (all types) to 1/2 pint per day<br>(this includes yoghurt, custard and milk puddings)<br>Avoid almond milk, condensed and evaporated milk,<br>processed cheese and cheese spread, e.g.<br>Dairylea, Laughing cow, Primula, cheesestrings  | Oat and rice milk<br>Cream cheese, cottage cheese<br>Cream, crème fraiche<br>Limit hard cheese to 3-4oz/ 90-120g per<br>week   |
| <b>Snacks:</b><br>Fruit and nut snack bars<br>Nuts and seeds (All types)<br>Potato, pulse and vegetable crisps/snacks, twiglets,<br>Bombay mix  | Unsalted corn or maize based snacks<br>Unsalted rice based snacks<br>Unsalted popcorn<br>Unsalted breadsticks/pretzels   |
| Sweets:<br>Confectionary and nougat containing dried fruit and<br>nuts<br>Solid chocolate bars, fudge, toffee, liquorice<br>Biscuits, cakes and puddings containing dried fruit,<br>nuts and chocolate<br>Scones and chocolate muffins/cake, cake mixes<br>with raising agent (baking powder)   | Boiled, chewy or jelly sweets, mints<br>Marshmallow, Turkish delight (without<br>nuts)<br>Plain biscuits and cake (without dried fruit,<br>nuts and chocolate), such as rich tea,<br>digestives, shortbread, jammy dodgers,<br>custard creams, donuts, jam tarts |
| <b>Drinks:</b><br>Coffee, fruit and vegetable juices, smoothies<br>Hot chocolate, Bovril, malted drinks (Horlicks,<br>Ovaltine)<br>Dark fizzy drinks (cola, Dr Pepper)<br>Beer, lager, wine, cider  | Tea, herbal tea, Camp coffee<br>Squash/cordial drinks, flavoured water,<br>Carbonated drinks (soda water, tonic<br>water, lemonade, Lucozade)<br>Spirits, e.g. vodka, whisky, rum, gin   |
| Miscellaneous:<br>Nut butters, fish paste, chocolate spread<br>Salt (all varieties) and salt substitutes containing<br>potassium<br>Ready meals, takeaways and fast food<br>Ready prepared soups, gravy mix and sauces. Meat<br>and yeast extract, e.g. Bovril and Marmite<br>Ready prepared stock, soy sauce,<br>Bottled sauces and chutneys, ketchup, brown sauce | Jam, marmalade, honey, lemon curd,<br>golden syrup<br>Black pepper, herbs and spices, garlic,<br>ginger<br>Freshly prepared foods<br>Reduced salt stock and cubes<br>Vinegar<br>Mayonnaise, salad cream  |

You can request this information in a different format or another language.

