

Principles of Diabetic Diet

1. Eat at regular times and maintain healthy eating habits. Consume 3 meals and 1-2 snacks daily. Include appropriate servings from each food group at each meal. Ideally, you should eat every 4-5 hrs.
2. Reduce sugar (white sugar, brown sugar, corn syrup, honey) in foods or beverages. Replace with sugar substitute such as Sweet & Low, Equal, or Splenda.
3. Limit sugar-containing beverages, foods, and condiments such as Vitasoy, soda, condensed milk, sweet buns, jams, dates, figs, candies, desserts, sweet and sour foods, BBQ sauce, ketchup, hoisin sauce, sweet bean paste, plum sauce, and oyster sauce.
4. Limit white rice, rice porridge, glutinous (sticky) rice and rice products such as cheong-fun, mei-fun, ho-fun, rice dumplings, rice balls.
5. Limit starchy fruits such as bananas and durian.
6. Include foods high in fiber such as brown rice, dried beans, whole grain breads and cereals, fresh fruits, and vegetables in appropriate amounts.
7. The following foods contain mostly carbohydrates (starch and sugar) and should be consumed in moderate amounts:

Rice, rice porridge, rice noodles, bread, cereal, crackers, potato, yam, taro, corn, barley, gourd, green peas, dried beans	Approx. 1 cup rice/noodle/cereal or 2 slices bread per meal 1 cup = 8 oz.
Fruits	Approx. 2-3 small ones per day
Milk (fat free or 1% low fat) or unsweetened soymilk with calcium	Approx. 2 cups per day 1 cup = 8 oz.
8. 4 oz (1/2 cup) of 100% unsweetened fruit juice may be substituted for 1 serving of fruit.
9. Choose low fat foods such as lean meats, seafood, chicken breast, tofu, and egg white. Remove all visible fats and skins from meat. You may have nuts, seeds, and peanut butter in moderation.
10. Limit high cholesterol foods such as organ meats (liver, gizzard, kidney, brain, tongue), egg yolk, shrimp, and squid.
11. Limit animal fats (lard, chicken fat, butter), fried foods, dim sum, margarine, mayonnaise, and salad dressing. Avoid coconut milk.

12. Use a small amount of vegetable oil in cooking. Choose canola oil or olive oil.
13. Prepare foods by steaming, braising, boiling, or baking.
14. Limit salty (high sodium) foods and condiments such as salted egg, salted fish, ham, sausage, preserved meats, canned foods, salt, soy sauce, fish sauce, oyster sauce, MSG, fermented black beans, chili sauce, bean paste, shrimp paste, and fermented bean curd.
15. Use these low sodium seasonings: celery, chili pepper, garlic, ginger, green pepper, onion, parsley, black pepper, red pepper, curry powder, five spice powder, anise, vinegar, and lemon juice.
16. Avoid drinking alcohol on an empty stomach as it may cause low blood sugar.
17. May use sugar-free products, diet soda, broth, coffee, and tea.