# Exchange List Outline 

Your guide to carbohydrate counting and meal planning

## What is a Choice or Exchange?

A carbohydrate choice or exchange is equal to 15 grams of carbohydrate. By looking at the nutrition label you can determine how many carb choices there are in food.

Below is a general guideline for planning a balanced meal. Your nutritionist will work with you to develop a meal plan that meets your individual needs and helps keep your glucose stable.

|  | Inactive* Women | Active** Women | Inactive Men | Active Men |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Carbohydrate <br> per Meal | $15-30$ grams <br> $(1-2$ carb choices $)$ | $30-45$ grams <br> $(2-3$ carb choices $)$ | $30-45$ grams <br> $(2-3$ carb choices $)$ | $45-60$ grams <br> $(3-4$ carb choices $)$ |

* Inactive means less than 30 minutes of exercise per day
** Active means greater than 30 minutes of exercise per day


## - Reading Labels

Serving Size / Servings Per Container
Pay close attention to the serving size to determine how much you can eat based on your meal plan

Total Carbohydrate
Check out the total carbohydrate in 1 serving. Controlling your carbohydrates is the key to improving your blood sugar levels.

Sugars
Sugars are included as part of the total carbohydrate and don't need to be counted!
Fiber
If a food contains more than 5 grams of fiber, you may be able to subtract the amount of fiber from the total grams of carbohydrate. Some people may be instructed to not subtract fiber from the total grams of carbohydrate. Ask your nutritionist for advice.

- Quick Counting Guide

| Carb Choices | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 2.5 | 3 | 3.5 | 4 | 4.5 | 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Grams of Total <br> Carbohydrate | $11-20$ | $21-25$ | $26-35$ | $36-40$ | $41-50$ | $51-55$ | $56-65$ | $66-70$ | $71-80$ |

## Carbohydrate Choices

## - Starches

(1 choice $=15$ grams of carbohydrate, 3 grams of protein, 0-1 grams fat, 80 calories)


## Crackers and Snacks

| Animal crackers <br> 8 | Baked chips <br> 15-20 | Cheez-Its $27$ | Goldfish $45$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Graham crackers <br> 3 squares | Popcorn <br> 3 cups | Potato chips 9-13 | Pretzels <br> $3 / 4 \mathrm{OZ}$ |
| Rice cakes | Saltine crackers <br> 6 | Triscuits <br> 5 | Whole wheat cracker $2-5$ |

## Cereal

| Bran Cereal <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Corn flakes <br> $3 / 4$ cup | Granola <br> $1 / 4$ cup | Old fashioned oats, cooked <br> $1 / 2$ cup |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Instant oatmeal <br> 1 package | Puffed cereal <br> $11 / 2$ cup | Raisin bran <br> $1 / 3$ cup | Sugar-frosted cereal <br> $1 / 2$ cup |
| Unsweetened cereal <br> $3 / 4$ cup | Cream of Wheat, cooked <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Shredded wheat, plain <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Grape nuts 1/8 cup |

Beans and Lentils

| Baked beans | Whole beans | Refried beans | Lentils |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1/3 cup | 1/2 cup | 1/2 cup | 1/2 cup |

## Pasta and Grains

| Old fashioned oats | Pasta | Brown \& White rice | Quinoa |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1/2 cup, cooked | 1/3 cup, cooked | 1/3 cup, cooked | 1/3 cup, cooked |

## Starchy Vegetables

|  | Corn <br> $1 / 2$ cup | French fries <br> 10 | Steak fries <br> 6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parsnips <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Peas <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Plantains <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Potato baked with skin $1 / 4$ large (3 oz) |
| Potato, mashed <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Squash (winter) <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Sweet potato or yam <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Mixed frozen veggies $1 / 2$ cup |

## - Fruit

1 choice $=15$ grams of carbohydrate, 60 calories

| Apple <br> 1 small | Banana | Blueberries, blackberries <br> $3 / 4$ cup | Canned fruit, unsweetened <br> $1 / 2$ cup |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cantaloupe <br> 1 cup | Cherries $12 \text { to } 15$ | Dates <br> 3 | Figs <br> 1 large (3 oz) |
| Fruit cocktail <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Grapefruit <br> $1 / 2$ large ( 6 oz ) | Grapes <br> 12 to 15 | Honeydew <br> 1 cup |
| Kiwi <br> 1 | Mandarin oranges (canned) $3 / 4 \text { cup }$ | Nectarine $\square$ 1 | Orange <br> 1 small (6 oz) |


| Peach <br> 1 medium | Pear <br> $1 / 2$ large | Pineapple <br> $3 / 4$ cup |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Raisins <br> 2 Tbsp. | Raspberries <br> 1 cup | Strawberries <br> 1 cup | Tangerine <br> 2 |
| Watermelon (cubed) 1 cup | Apple Juice <br> ½ cup (4 oz) | Cranberry Juice <br> 1 cup | Grape Juice $\text { 1⁄3 cup ( } 3 \mathrm{oz} \text { ) }$ |
| Grapefruit Juice ½ cup (4 oz) | Peach Juice <br> $1 / 3$ cup (3 oz) | Pear Juice <br> 1⁄3 cup (3 oz) | Pineapple Juice <br> $1 / 2$ cup (4 oz) |
| Prune Juice <br> 1/3 cup (3 oz) | Orange Juice <br> $1 / 2$ cup (4 oz) | Diet V8 Splash <br> 5 cups | Regular V8/Tomato juice $11 / 2$ cup |

## - Other Carbohydrate Choices

(1 choice $=15$ grams of carbohydrate)

| Brownie | Cake, no icing | Casserole | Chocolate syrup |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 inch 1 | 2 inch 1 piece | $1 / 2$ cup | 2 Tbsp. |
| Cocoa mix <br> 1 envelope | Cookie with cream filling 2 small | Coffee creamer <br> 2 Tbsp | Donut, glazed <br> $1 / 2$ |
| Frozen yogurt <br> $1 / 3$ cup | Frozen yogurt, sugar-free <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Frozen fruit juice bars <br> 1 bar | Fruit snacks <br> 1 small bag |
| Gatorade <br> 1 cup | G-2 Gatorade <br> 2 cups | Gingersnaps <br> 3 | Granola bar <br> 1 cup |


|  | Ice cream <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Jam, jelly <br> 1 Tbsp. | Jello <br> $1 / 2$ cup |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jelly beans <br> 9 | Meal replacement bar <br> $1 / 2$ bar | Sugar-Free Pudding $1 / 2$ cup | Pumpkin pie $1 / 16$ of a pie |
| Pizza piece, thin crust <br> 1 slice | Potato chips <br> 12-18 chips | Tortilla chips 9-13 chips | Trail mix <br> 1 oz |
| Salad dressing <br> $1 / 4$ cup | Sherbet <br> $1 / 4$ cup | Soup <br> 1 cup | Soda <br> $1 / 2$ can |
| Spaghetti sauce <br> $1 / 2$ cup | V-8 or tomato juice <br> $11 / 2$ cup | Mravili <br> Lifesavers/ Hard candy <br> 8 each | 100-Calorie Snack Packs $\square$ 1 |

## - Non-Starchy Vegetables

( 1 choice $=5$ grams of carbohydrate, 25 calories)
A choice or serving is $1 / 2$ cup of cooked vegetables or 1 cup of raw vegetables. A serving of vegetables at a meal or snack does not have to be counted as part of your carbohydrate allotment.
Asparagus

| Onions |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Salad greens, lettuce | Spinach | Tomatoes | Turnips |
| Water chestnuts | Yellow squash | Zucchini | Bamboo shoots |

## - Milk and Milk Substitutes

( 1 choice $=12-15$ grams of carbohydrate, 8 gram protein, $1-8$ grams fat, 90 to 150 calories)

| Almond milk, sweetened $1 \text { cup }$ | Cashew milk $1.5 \text { cup }$ | Coconut Milk, Sweetened 1.5 cup | Cow's milk <br> 1 cup |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chocolate milk 1/2 cup | Goat's milk <br> 1 cup | Hemp Milk <br> 3/4 cup | Oat milk 1 cup |
| Rice milk, plain 1 cup | Soy milk, plain 1 cup | Yogurt, flavored greek 1 cup | Yogurt, light or plain <br> 1 cup |

## - Protein

(1 choice $=0$ grams carbohydrate, 7 grams protein, 3-8 grams of fat, 50-100 calories)
A serving of protein is 1 ounce.

| Meat |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Beef Jerky | Canned tuna | Chicken |
| Crab | Deli lunch meats | Fish | ancycy <br> Hot dogs |
| Lamb | Pork | Seafood | Shellfish |
| Shrimp | Turkey | Veal | Wild game |

## Meat substitutes

| Bacon strips (soy) <br> 3 strips | Chicken nuggets (soy) <br> 2 | Cottage cheese $1 / 4$ cup | Cheese <br> $10 z$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Edamame <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Egg <br> 1 | Falafel <br> 3 patties | Greek yogurt, plain $1 / 2$ cup |
| Hummus <br> 1/3 cup | Lentils <br> $1 / 2$ cup | Meatless burger O3 oz | Nuts <br> $1 / 4$ cup |
| Peanut butter 1 Tbsp. | Soy nuts <br> 3/4 cup | Tempeh <br> $1 / 4$ cup | Tofu <br> $1 / 2$ cup |

## - Fat

(1 choice $=0$ grams of carbohydrate, 5 grams of fat, 45 calories)

| Avocado <br> 2 Tbsp | Bacon <br> Medium slice | Butter <br> 1 Tbsp | Cheese sauce |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Coconut oil <br> 1 Tbsp | Cream cheese <br> 1 Tbsp | Cream cheese, reduced fat 2 Tbsp | Cream, half and half 2 Tbsp |
| Margarine <br> 1 Tbsp | Mayonnaise <br> 1 Tbsp | Mayonnaise, reduced-fat <br> 1 Tbsp | Nut butters <br> 1 Tbsp |
| Nuts <br> $1 / 4$ C (6 nuts) | Peanuts $1 / 4 \mathrm{C}$ (10 nuts) |  | Olives <br> 1 OZ |


| Salad dressing 1 Tbsp | Pumpkin Seeds <br> $1 / 4 \mathrm{C}(1 \mathrm{oz})$ | Sour cream tuna 2 Tbsp | Sour cream, reduced fat <br> 3 Tbsp |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cream/Half and half | Seeds (sunflower, flax) $1 / 4 \mathrm{C}(1 \mathrm{oz})$ | Shortening | Tahini <br> 2 Tbsp |

