## My Nutrition

## Gluten free diet for coeliac disease

This sheet is for people with coeliac disease diagnosed by a doctor. It may not be suitable for those with gluten intolerance.

## What is coeliac disease?

Coeliac disease is a condition where the body's immune system reacts to gluten. Gluten is a protein found in foods made with:

- Wheat
- Barley
- Rye
- Oats


Used with permission from Coeliac New Zealand

## How is it managed?

The only treatment is a strict life-
long gluten free diet. Eating any gluten (even traces) causes the small, finger-like projections (villi) in the bowel to become inflamed and flattened. Eating a gluten free diet allows the bowel wall to heal and digestion to return to normal.

## What are the risks of not following a strict gluten free (GF) diet?

Not following a gluten free (GF) diet causes bowel damage, which results in nutrients from food not being taken up (absorbed) by the bowel. This can cause:

- Iron deficiency anaemia (low red blood cells) and/or other vitamin and mineral deficiencies
- Osteoporosis (brittle and fragile bones)
- Weight loss
- Symptoms such as diarrhoea, nausea (feeling sick) or bloating

Other complications which can relate to untreated coeliac disease include:

- Infertility
- Digestive tract cancer
- Altered mental state
- Increased risk of other autoimmune conditions


## How do I make my diet gluten free?

There are many foods that are naturally gluten free. For packaged and processed foods, it is important to always read the nutrition label first. Some examples of suitable foods on a gluten free diet include:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Fresh/unprocessed meat, fish, chicken and eggs
- Plain legumes, nuts and seeds
- Naturally gluten free grains - rice, quinoa (see full table below)
- Gluten free breads and cereals
- Milk and cheese
- Products labelled 'gluten free'
- Products that do not contain ingredients derived from gluten-containing grains


## What about food labelling?

In Australia, products need to list all ingredients and allergens on packaging.
Read the ingredient list:
Gluten containing products have ingredients derived from gluten-containing grains including:

- wheat, rye, oats, barley or gluten
- wheat starch, cornflour (wheat)
- thickeners 1400-1450 (wheat derived) or wheat maltodextrin

Ingredients that are gluten free:

- Starches and thickeners not specified as made from wheat
- "Wheat glucose syrup" and "caramel colour from wheat" - processing removes the gluten Government

Read food labels:

- Some products advertise that they are wheat free. Be aware that wheat free and gluten free are not the same: "Wheat free" may still include other gluten-containing ingredients, such as oats in muesli.
- Products labelled "gluten free" contain no detectable gluten.
- Products labelled "may contain traces of wheat/gluten" should be avoided by people on a GF diet.

Some non-food products you consume (nutrition supplements, medications, lip balm, toothpaste) may contain gluten so it is important to check the labels or ask a pharmacist, GP or dietitian for advice.

## What about food preparation?

Even $1 / 100^{\text {th }}$ of a slice of wheat bread can damage the small bowel. It is essential to prepare, store and cook GF foods away from foods that contain gluten. This avoids cross contamination.

Tips to avoid cross contamination:

| $\sqrt{ }$ | AT HOME OR WHILST TRAVELLING |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | Wash your hands after handling gluten-containing food. |
|  | Use separate, labelled containers for GF foods (bread, biscuits). |
|  | Use separate, labelled appliances e.g. bread makers, toasters, sandwich <br> presses for GF options. |
|  | Trial toast bags for GF toast. |
|  | Use separate spreads e.g. margarine for GF products. |
|  | Use separate water in a clean pot for cooking GF pasta. |
|  | Use a separate colander to drain gluten free pasta. |
|  | Use clean oil when deep frying. If sharing, make sure the GF foods are <br> fried before the gluten-containing options. |
|  | Prepare gluten free meals first or in a separate area. <br> Wash all cooking utensils before and after use e.g. chopping boards, pans, <br> storage containers, cutlery, bowls and plates. |


| $\sqrt{ }$ | EATING OUT |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | Call restaurants before to ask about suitable gluten free options. |
|  | Alert staff and ask for their gluten free options. |
|  | Try cuisines that include a selection of naturally GF options (Thai, <br> Mexican, Vietnamese, Indian). Always double check options are GF. |
|  | Choose foods labelled GF on the menu. |
|  | Check salad dressings and sauces used in cooking are GF. |
|  | Avoid foods fried in the same oils as batter which contains wheat. |
|  | Avoid foods prepared on the same board. |


| Food group | Gluten free | May contain gluten (READ LABEL) | Contains gluten (AVOID) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Grains \& flours | - Almond meal <br> - Amaranth <br> - Arrowroot <br> - Buckwheat <br> - Corn/maize <br> - Glutinous rice flour <br> - Gram/besan <br> - Lentil and soy flours <br> - Lupin <br> - Millet <br> - Polenta <br> - Potato starch/flour <br> - Quinoa <br> - Rice <br> - Sago/tapioca <br> - Sorghum <br> - Teff | - Baking powder <br> - Wheaten cornflour | - All varieties of wheat (including spelt, kamut, couscous, durum, farro) <br> - Barley <br> - Oats <br> - Products using malted gluten grains e.g. malt barley <br> - Rye <br> - Semolina <br> - Triticale (a hybrid of wheat and rye) <br> - Wheaten cornflour |
| Cereal products | - GF corn tortillas <br> - GF muesli <br> - GF pasta \& lasagne sheets <br> - Plain rice \& corn cereals (no malt) <br> - Rice noodles <br> - Rice porridge | - Corn \& rice tortillas/wraps <br> - Soba noodles <br> - Vermicelli noodles | - Egg noodles <br> - Lasagne <br> - Muesli <br> - Noodles/spaghetti <br> - Oat porridge <br> - Pasta/macaroni <br> - Ravioli/tortellini <br> - Udon noodles <br> - Wheat-based \& mixed grain breakfast foods |
| Breads, biscuits, cakes, etc. | - Breads, biscuits, cakes labelled as gluten free <br> - Plain rice crackers <br> - There are many gluten free breads, biscuits, cakes and pizza bases etc. now available | - Flavoured rice cakes and crackers <br> - Plain rice and corn cakes | - Barley bread <br> - Crispbreads <br> - Croissants <br> - Ice cream cones or wafers <br> - Pizza bases <br> - Pumpernickel bread <br> - Regular biscuits/cakes <br> - Regular bread \& rolls <br> - Rye bread <br> - Sourdough bread <br> - Waffles/pancakes |
| Meat/meat alternatives | - Eggs <br> - Fresh (non-marinated) meats <br> - Fresh seafood <br> - Tinned fish in spring water, brine or oil | - BBQ chicken (stuffing \& seasoning) <br> - Deli meats (ham/turkey/ salami etc.) <br> - Flavoured tinned fish/chicken <br> - Marinated meats/seafood <br> - Sausages <br> - Tofu | - Crumbed/battered meats <br> - Hamburgers <br> - Imitation seafood e.g. seafood sticks <br> - Meat pies/sausage rolls |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dairy | - Buttermilk <br> - Cheese (hard/soft) <br> - Condensed milk <br> - Evaporated milk <br> - Fresh cream <br> - Milk (goats/cow) <br> - Plain cream cheese | - Artificial cream <br> - Custard (powders) <br> - Dairy desserts <br> - Flavoured milk <br> - Ice cream <br> - Processed cheeses \& cheese spreads <br> - Soy milk <br> - Yoghurt |  |
| Vegetables | - Fresh salad items <br> - Fresh vegetables | - Dried legumes \& lentils <br> - Frozen \& canned vegetables <br> - Frozen or take-away chips <br> - Processed/canned legumes <br> - Vegetable/potato salad/coleslaw |  |
| Fruit | - Fresh/frozen/tinned fruit | - Christmas mince <br> - Fruit mince <br> - Thickened fruit products |  |
| Beverages | - All distilled spirits (even malted whisky) <br> - Cider <br> - Fortified wines (port, sherry) <br> - Fruit \& vegetable juices <br> - Mineral water <br> - Soda \& tonic water <br> - Sports drinks <br> - Water <br> - Wine | - Chocolate dusting powder <br> - Cordials (some contain barley) <br> - Drinking chocolate <br> - Soft drinks (some contain malt/barley) <br> - Tea \& coffee (some herbal/flavoured tea bags contain gluten) <br> - Tea \& coffee substitutes (coffee sachets) | - Barley drinks <br> - Beer/ale/lager/stout <br> - Milo \& other malt powder beverages |
| Sauces, spreads \& herbs | - Fish sauce <br> - Golden \& maple syrup <br> - Jams \& honey <br> - Marmalade <br> - Molasses <br> - Peanut butter <br> - Pure herbs \& spices <br> - Salt \& pepper <br> - Tahini <br> - Tomato sauce <br> - Treacle <br> - Vinegars (except malt) | - All commercial sauces (BBQ, sweet chilli, etc.) <br> - Asian sauces (soy, oyster, etc.) <br> - Chutney <br> - Curry powder/pastes <br> - Meat \& fish pastes <br> - Mixed packaged herbs or spices <br> - Pickles <br> - Salad dressings \& mayonnaise <br> - Stock cubes \& gravy mixes <br> - Vanilla \& flavouring essences | - Malt vinegar <br> - Vegemite, Promite \& Marmite (gluten free varieties available) |


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| Other | - Butter \& margarine <br> - Oils <br> - Plain nuts <br> - Plain popcorn <br> - Pure icing sugar <br> - Sugar <br> - Wheat germ oil | - Chocolates \& chocolate snack foods <br> - Flavoured crisps/chips <br> - Icing mixture (gluten free varieties available) <br> - Jelly <br> - Lollies/sweets <br> - Tinned \& packet soups | - Liquorice (gluten free now available) <br> - Milo and other maltcontaining powders |

## Useful resources

| Accredited Practising Dietitian | - Support with transition and adherence to a gluten free diet. <br> - Assist to reduce risk of cross contamination. <br> - Ensure diet is nutritionally adequate. <br> Find a dietitian: www.dietitiansaustralia.org.au |  |  |  |  |
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| Coeliac Australia, Coeliac New Zealand | - www.coeliac.org.au; www.coeliac.org.nz <br> - Supports people with coeliac disease and their families. <br> - Offers annual membership and credible information. Membership is <br> suggested for all people diagnosed with coeliac disease. <br> - Products with the Coeliac Australia Endorsement Logo contain no detectable gluten. Not all gluten free products use this logo. |  |  |  |  |
| Recipes, takeaway options \& preprepared meals | Taste: https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/collections/gluten-free BBC Good Food: https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/gluten-free Australian Gluten Free Life: https://agfl.com.au/ Gluten Free Eating Directory: www.glutenfreeeatingdirectory.com.au/ Gourmet Meals: www.gourmetmeals.com.au |  |  |  |  |
| Phone Apps |  | iPhone | Android | Cost* | Comment |
| Coeliac Australia | Coelial Austraia | $\sqrt{ }$ | $\sqrt{ }$ | \$9.99 | HELP SHOPPING Details over 800 gluten free ingredients \& 300 additives (AUS/NZ) |
| Find Me Gluten Free |  | $\sqrt{ }$ | $\sqrt{ }$ | Free with in app purchases | HELP EATING OUT <br> Lists gluten free restaurants e.g. location or meal |
| FoodSwitch by Bupa | \|||||||||| | $\sqrt{ }$ | $\sqrt{ }$ | Free | HELP SHOPPING Use the GlutenSwitch filter \& scan barcodes to find gluten free options |
| Woolworths | (1) | $\sqrt{ }$ | $\sqrt{ }$ | Free | HELP SHOPPING <br> Woolworths is the Official Supermarket Partner of Coeliac Australia. Lists allergens of product. |
| Recipeezi Gluten Free | GLUTEN <br> Free | $\sqrt{ }$ | $\sqrt{ }$ | Free initial trial then subscribe | HELP COOKING Gluten free recipes and shopping list |

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## Example meal and snack suggestions

## BREAKFAST

- GF muesli/high fibre cereal with psyllium and milk \& fruit
- Eggs and grilled tomato, spinach and mushroom on gluten free toast
- GF baked beans on GF toast
- Smoothie - nuts, milk, fresh/frozen fruit


## MORNING TEA

- Plain rice cakes with cheese topped with tomato and cucumber
- Vegetable sticks with hummus or tzatziki


## LUNCH

- Wrap or sandwich (choose wholemeal or seeded GF bread) filled with salad and chicken/ham/tuna (GF)
- Piece of fruit


## AFTERNOON TEA

- Yoghurt (check label)
- Nuts and dried fruit mix


## DINNER

- Meat/fish/chicken with potato and vegetables (if using gravy check the label to ensure GF)
- Stir-fried meat/chicken with vegetables, rice and GF sauces
- GF pasta with mince, vegetables and GF bolognaise sauce
- Curry made with meat/chicken/vegetables, tomato and spices/chillies (check the label of any sauces/pastes)


## SUPPER

- Fruit with yoghurt (check label)
- Nuts and dried fruit mix
- GF custard/rice pudding/ice cream or sorbet
- Hot chocolate (check label) or herbal tea


## Summary

- Following a strict gluten free diet is the only treatment for coeliac disease.
- Always read food labels and ingredients lists when eating processed and packaged foods.
- Be aware of cross contamination.
- General healthy eating is important when following a gluten free diet. A dietitian can provide assistance with this.


## For any queries or concerns please contact your dietitian:

## Name:

$\qquad$ Contact: $\qquad$
This resource has been developed in consultation with Coeliac Australia and Coeliac New Zealand.
This is a consensus document from Dietitian/ Nutritionists from the Nutrition Education Materials Online, "NEMO", team.


[^0]:    * Please note the cost of these apps may change

