

### **S3 Clinical nutrition**

New diabetes nutrition therapy guidelines:  
the evidence and controversies - focus on macronutrients

# **NEW diabetes nutrition therapy guidelines**

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# Nutrition Recommendations and Interventions for Diabetes

A position statement of the American Diabetes Association

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

DIABETES CARE, VOLUME 31, SUPPLEMENT 1, JANUARY 2008

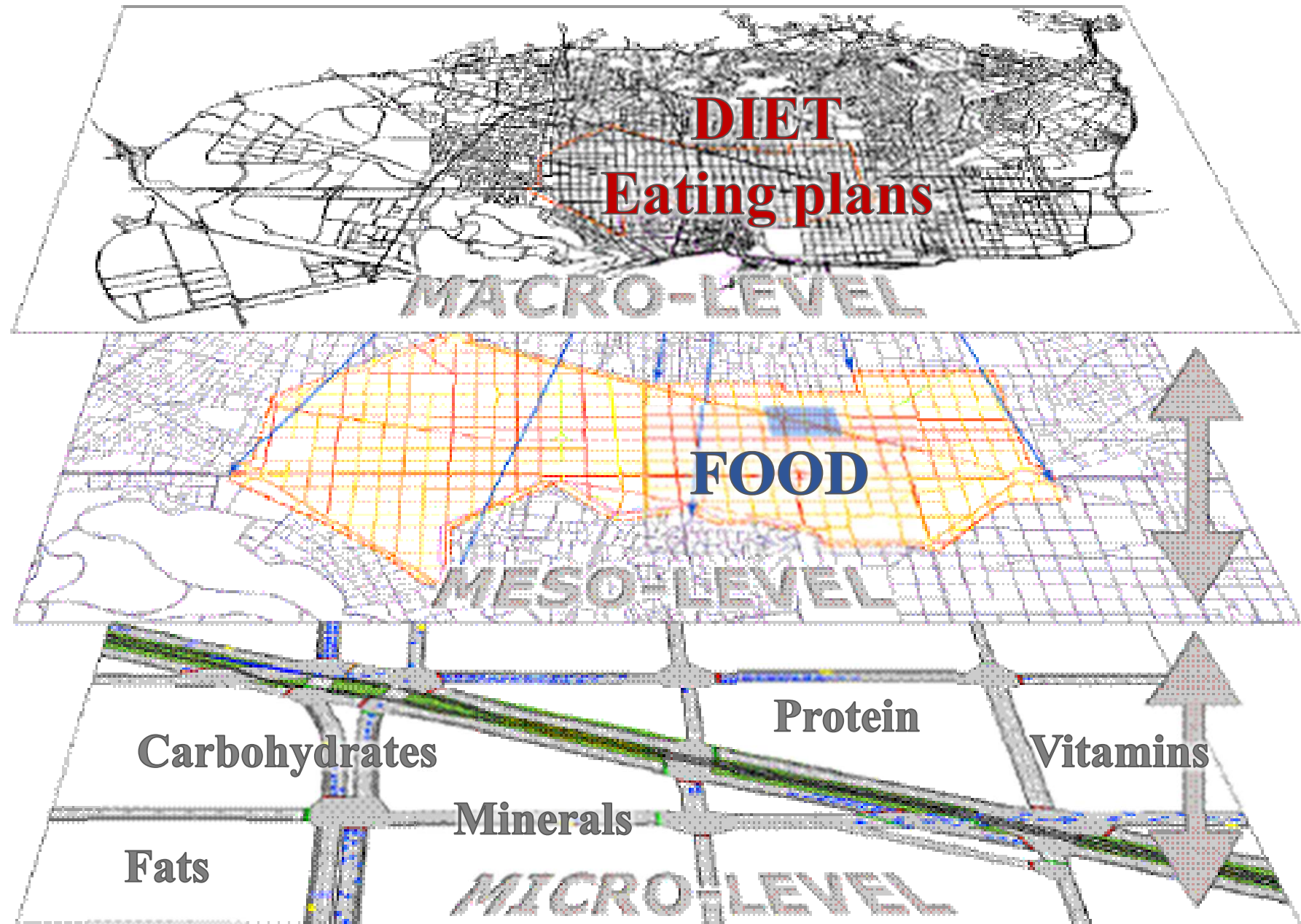


## Nutrition Therapy Recommendations for the Management of Adults With Diabetes

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# Overarching message

- **Individualization**

- There's not a one-size-fits-all eating pattern for individuals with diabetes.

- **Positive messages** about food choices



Particular dietary  
prescription

Eating patterns  
Patient preference

# **‘One Size Does Not Fit All’**

- **Respect for their cultural heritage** (to keep favorite dishes in the plan)
- **Eating plan**
  - Minimally processed, nutrient-dense foods
  - Appropriate portion sizes
  - Takes into account individual preferences, cultures, religious beliefs, traditions, and metabolic goals
- **Individualized nutrition therapy** is best for diabetes patients

# Goals of nutrition therapy

- To promote and support healthful eating patterns
- To address individual nutrition needs based on personal and cultural preferences, etc.
- To maintain the pleasure of eating
- To provide the individual with diabetes with practical tools for day-to-day meal planning

# Energy balance

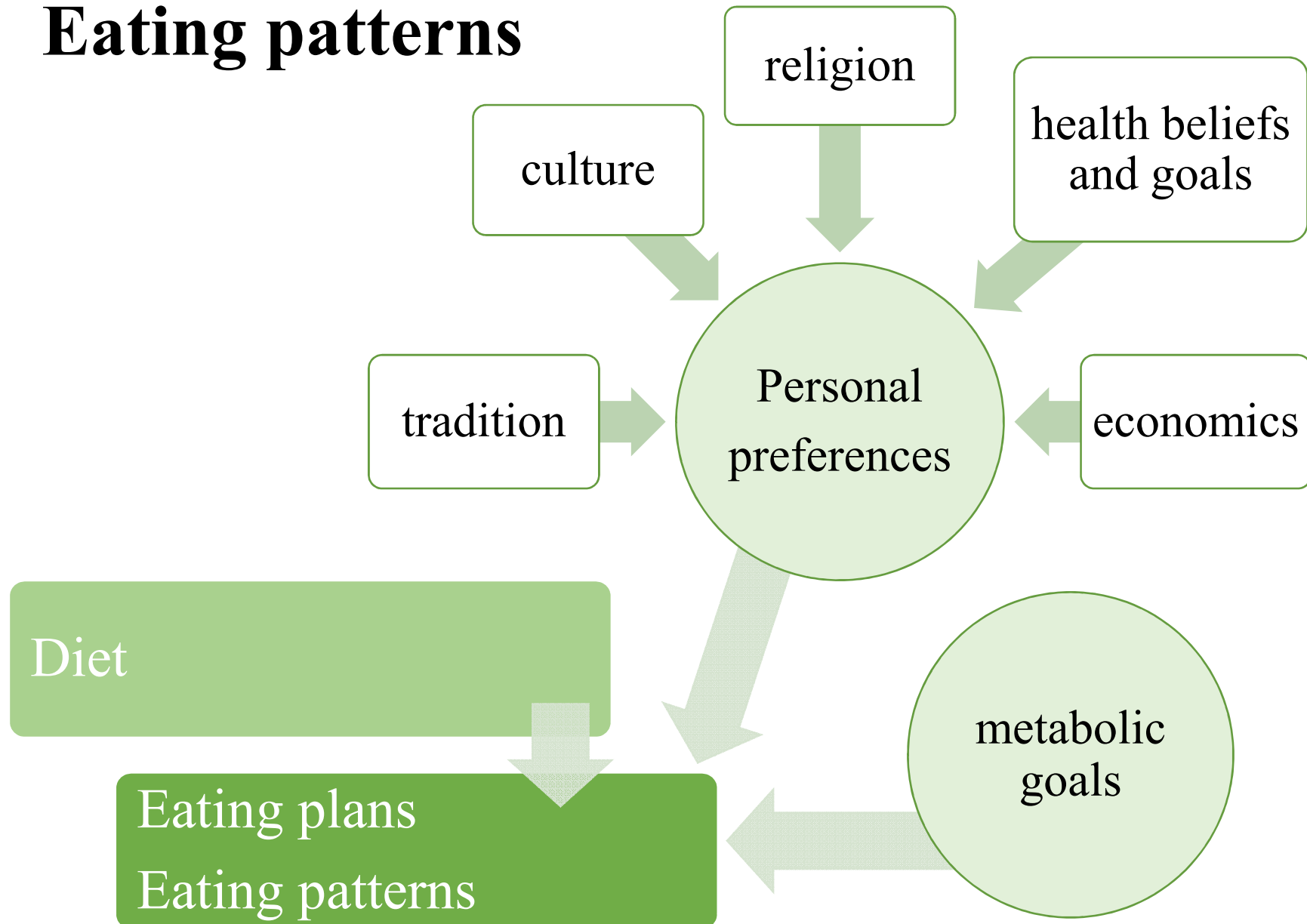
- **Overweight/obese adults with type 2 diabetes**
  - For weight loss: reducing energy intake while maintaining healthful eating pattern
  - Optimal macronutrient intake to reduce weight not established
- **Modest weight loss** may improve glycemia, BP, lipids
  - Particularly early in disease process
- **Recommended for modest weight loss**
  - Intensive lifestyle interventions: nutrition therapy counseling, physical activity, behavior change
  - Ongoing support

# Optimal mix of macronutrients

- NOT an ideal percentage of calories from carbohydrate, protein, or fat for all people with diabetes
- Macronutrient distribution should be based on individualized assessment of
  - Current eating patterns
  - Preferences
  - Metabolic goals



# Eating patterns



# Eating patterns

Consider personal preferences and metabolic goals when recommending an eating pattern.

DASH	High in fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy, whole grains, poultry, fish, nuts. Low in saturated fat, red meat, sweets, sodium-containing beverages, sodium.
Low carb	High in protein, fat; veggies low in carbs. Grains avoided
Low fat	High in fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy. Total fat intake <10%
Mediterranean style	Abundant plant-based foods. Fruit as dessert. Olive oil as primary fat. Low to moderate alcohol (with meals). Red wine
Vegan	No flesh foods or animal products
Vegetarian	No flesh foods; includes eggs and/or dairy

**There is no “ideal” conclusive eating pattern that is expected to benefit all individuals with diabetes.**

# Carbohydrates

- **Collaborative goals** with patient
  - Ideal carb amount not established
- **Amount of carbs and available insulin** is important factors influencing postprandial glycemic response; consider when developing eating plan
- **Monitor carb intake** to achieve glycemic control
- Carb intake from **vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, and dairy products**
  - Avoid other carb sources, esp. those with added fats, sugar, or sodium

# High or Low Carb?

- **NO** conclusive evidence regarding an **ideal amount** of carbohydrate intake for people with diabetes

2008	2013
■ a minimum carbohydrate intake of 130 g/day	■ none

- Emphasis on **where the carbohydrates come from**
  - Whatever carbohydrates are eaten should come from **vegetables, whole grains, fruits, legumes, and dairy products** over other sources that contain added fats, sugar, or sodium.

# Quality of carbohydrates

- **Glycemic index and glycemic load**
  - Substituting low-glycemic load foods for higher-glycemic load foods
  - Modestly improve glycemic control
- **Dietary fiber and whole grains**
  - People with diabetes should consume at least the amount of **fiber** and **whole grains** recommended for the general public.

# Fiber

- No longer hold as much weight
  - Unrealistic (requires fiber intakes of more than 50 g/day)
- Recommendations for the general public
- **Dietary fiber:** consume at least
  - 14 g fiber/1,000 kcals/day
  - 25 g/day for women, 38 g/day for men
- **Whole grains:** consume at least
  - $\geq 50\%$  of all grains as whole grains

# Sucrose, Fructose, Caloric sweeteners

- **Minimize sucrose intake** when substituting for starch
  - Avoid displacing nutrient-dense foods
- **Free fructose (naturally occurring)**
  - Result in better glycemic control compared with isocaloric intake of sucrose or starch
  - Unlikely to have detrimental effects on triglycerides as long as intake is not excessive (>12% energy)
- **Limit/avoid sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs)**
  - Reduce risk for weight gain and worsening of cardiometabolic profile

# Nonnutritive sweeteners (NNSs)

- The use of **nonnutritive sweeteners (NNSs)** could potentially **reduce overall calorie and carbohydrate intake** if substituted for caloric sweeteners without compensation by eating additional calories from food sources.
- **Not enough evidence** to determine whether NNS use actually leads to reduction in body weight or reduction in cardiometabolic risk factors
- **Artificial sweeteners / Natural sweeteners**



# Protein

Diabetes without diabetic kidney disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>No</b> ideal intake to improve glycemic control or CVD risk</li><li>• Goals individualized</li></ul>
Diabetes and diabetic kidney disease (either micro- or macro-albuminuria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reducing the amount of dietary protein below the usual intake is <b>not</b> recommended</li></ul>
Type 2 diabetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carb sources high in protein should not be used to treat or prevent hypoglycemia.</li></ul>

# Fat Quality trumps Quantity

- Evidence is **inconclusive** for an ideal amount of **total fat intake** for people with diabetes.
- Goals should be **individualized**.
- Research suggests that **fat quality** appears to be far more important than **quantity**.
  - “Dietary cholesterol and saturated fat aren’t the dietary villains we once thought”
  - “A diet of diversity with **high-quality sources** of saturated fat, such as coconut, coconut oil, and grass-fed animal foods, are acceptable and amounts in the diet should be **individualized**.”

# Fat

- People with diabetes should follow **the same guidelines** for saturated fat, trans fat, and cholesterol as the general population.

	2008	2013
Saturated fat	< 7%	< 10%
Cholesterol	< 200 mg/day	< 300 mg/day
<i>Trans</i> fat	minimized	limited as possible

- People with type 2 diabetes may benefit from following a Mediterranean-style, monounsaturated fatty acid-rich eating pattern.

# MUFAs / PUFAs

## ■ MUFAs

- In type 2 diabetes, a **Mediterranean-style, MUFA-rich eating pattern** may benefit glycemic control and CVD risk factors.
- Recommended as an effective alternative to a lower-fat, higher-carb. eating pattern.

## ■ PUFAs

- **Limited evidence** on the effects in diabetes
  - **Controversy** on the best ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids
- PUFAs and MUFAs are recommended substitutes for saturated or *trans* fat.

# **Omega-3 fatty acids**

- **Omega-3 (EPA & DHA) supplements is NOT recommended for the prevention or treatment of CV events in diabetes.**
- **Increase in foods containing long-chain omega-3 FAs (EPA & DHA) (from fatty fish) and omega-3 ALA is recommended.**
  - Beneficial effects on lipoproteins, prevention of heart disease
  - Associations with positive health outcomes
- **Eat fish (particularly fatty fish)  $\geq 2$  times/week**

# Micronutrients

- Routine supplementation with **antioxidants**, such as vitamins E and C and carotene, is not advised.
- There was insufficient evidence to support the routine use of **micronutrients** such as **chromium**, **magnesium**, and **vitamin D** to improve glycemic control in people with diabetes.
- Some disagrees with the vitamin D recommendations: “There’s a plethora of very good evidence that supports the use of vitamin D in individuals with diabetes.”

# Vitamins

- Remains essentially the same
- There's no clear evidence of benefit from vitamin or mineral supplementation in individuals without underlying deficiencies.

# Herbs

- There is insufficient evidence to support the use of **cinnamon or other herbs/supplements** for the treatment of diabetes.
  - Herbal products aren't standardized.
  - The potential to interact with other medications.



# Alcohol

- **Daily moderation**

- Women:  $\leq 1$  drink/day
- Men:  $\leq 2$  drinks/day

cf. 1 drink = 12 oz beer, 5 oz wine, or 1.5 oz distilled spirits, each containing approximately 15 g of alcohol

- **Alcohol consumption may increase risk for delayed hypoglycemia**

- Especially if taking insulin or insulin secretagogues
- Education and awareness regarding the recognition and management of delayed hypoglycemia

# Sodium

- People with diabetes follow the same guidelines (**less than 2,300 mg/day**) as the general population.
- For individuals with **both diabetes and hypertension**, further reduction in sodium intake be **individualized**.
- **Consideration** be given to palatability, availability, and additional cost of **specialty low-sodium products** and the difficulty in achieving both low-sodium recommendations and a nutritionally adequate diet.

# Clinical priorities for nutrition

## : All people with diabetes

- Recommend portion control for weight loss & maintenance
- Know what foods contain carbohydrates
  - Starchy veggies, whole grains, fruit, milk/milk products, veggies, sugar
- Choose nutrient-dense, high fiber foods over processed foods
- Avoid sugar-sweetened beverages
- Carb counting: usually no need to subtract fiber, sugar alcohols from total carbohydrates
- High *trans* or saturated fat foods: Substitute foods higher in unsaturated fats (liquid oils)
- Select leaner protein sources and meat alternatives
- Vitamin and mineral supplements, herbal products, or cinnamon not recommended to manage diabetes
- Moderate alcohol consumption
- Limit sodium intake to 2,300 mg/day

# Clinical priorities for nutrition

## : By medication

### **Insulin secretagogues (sulfonylureas, meglitinides)**

- Moderate amounts of carbohydrate at each meal and snacks
- To reduce risk of hypoglycemia:
  - Eat a source of carbohydrates at meals
  - Moderate amounts of carbohydrates at each meal and snacks
  - Do not skip meals
  - Always carry a source of carbohydrates during physical activity

### **Metformin**

- Gradually titrate to minimize GI S/Es when initiating use:
  - Take with food or 15 min after a meal if symptoms persist
  - If side effects do not resolve over time (a few weeks), HCP F/U
  - If taking along with an insulin secretagogue or insulin, may experience hypoglycemia.

# Clinical priorities for nutrition

## : By medication

### **$\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors**

- Gradually titrate to minimize GI S/Es when initiating use
- Take at start of meal to have maximal effect:
  - If taking along with an insulin secretagogue or insulin, may experience hypoglycemia.
  - If hypoglycemia occurs, eat something containing monosaccharides such as glucose tablets as drug will prevent the digestion of polysaccharides.

### **Incretin mimetics (GLP-1 receptor agonists)**

- Gradually titrate to minimize GI S/Es when initiating use
  - Injection of daily or twice-daily GLP-1s should be premeal.
  - If S/Es do not resolve over time (a few weeks), HCP F/U.
  - If taking along with an insulin secretagogue or insulin, may experience hypoglycemia.
  - Once-weekly GLP-1s can be taken at any time during the day regardless of meal times

# Clinical priorities for nutrition : T1DM & Insulin-requiring T2DM

Count carbs or use meal planning to quantify carb intake: to “match” mealtime insulin to carbs consumed	
Multiple-daily injection plan or insulin pump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take mealtime insulin prior to eating</li><li>• Meals can be consumed at different times</li><li>• If physical activity is performed within 1-2 h of mealtime insulin injection, this dose may need to be lowered to reduce risk of hypoglycemia</li></ul>
Premixed insulin plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take insulin dose at consistent times every day</li><li>• Meals at similar times every day</li><li>• Do not skip meals to reduce risk of hypoglycemia</li><li>• Always carry a source of quick-acting carbohydrates during physical activity</li></ul>
Fixed insulin plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eat similar amounts of carbohydrates each day to match the set doses of insulin</li></ul>

# Summary

**No standard meal plan or eating pattern that works universally for all persons with diabetes**

**Nutrition therapy should be individualized**  
based on

- Individual health goals
- Personal and cultural preferences
- Health literacy and numeracy
- Access to healthful choices
- Readiness, willingness, and ability to change

**Nutrition interventions**  
should

- Emphasize a variety of minimally processed nutrient-dense foods in appropriate portion sizes as part of a healthful eating pattern
- Provide the individual with diabetes with practical tools for day-to-day food plan and behavior change that can be maintained over the long term