

IDDSI Mission Statement For Healthcare Providers

The International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative's (IDDSI) main goal is: "Safety through common terminology for all ages, in all care settings, and for all cultures."

We, the healthcare providers, are working together every day for our residents'/ patients'/clients' **safety** and wellness, while honoring the individual's **quality of life**, goals, and preferences.

We work in healthcare teams that include the individual/healthcare proxy with difficulty swallowing (dysphagia). Complex decision-making is involved when **determining diets** for people with difficulty eating, chewing, swallowing, and digesting. These dysphagia diets (aka, texture modified diets and thickened liquids) are offered and prescribed to reduce risks of discomfort, choking, aspiration, malnutrition, dehydration, and/or other negative health outcomes.

We need to work to end the **errors across the system with texture modified foods and liquids**, including: errors in ordering, subjective opinions on textures rather than reliable testing methods, confusion on what is recommended and served within a diet level, inconsistency in the quality and accuracy of foods and thickened liquids served, and a lack of quality control and point of service audits.

We have to end the **guesswork and confusion as a person transitions** to the next level of care. For example, dysphagia diet labels and descriptions at the hospital are typically different from those at the next admitting facility. This causes much confusion, including:

- Unsafe delays and errors in doctor's orders,
- Increased costs of staff time to call and discuss with referring facility, and
- Wasted time and money to completely re-evaluate the person in order to select appropriate diet and liquid levels.

We all need to use the **same language** for diet orders as individuals move through the healthcare system across the continuum of care:

- from one healthcare provider to the next,
- from one floor to the next,
- from one facility to the next, and
- from facilities to back home.

We all strive for **effective, age appropriate, culturally appropriate, and clear communication** with our residents/patients and their loved ones.

We need to **advocate** for our residents/patients to make sure that it is the *person* (or healthcare proxy) who is driving the team's decision-making. However, to communicate clearly across the whole team, we need:

- diet labels that can be identified in multiple ways (name, color, number);
- standardized definitions and descriptions of what is recommended and served on each diet; and a
- consistent system used throughout the industry, country, and world.

We need **one global system of standardized dysphagia diets**. The International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) is:

- a framework for standardized dysphagia diets,
- based on years of best practice, safety concerns, research, and other standardized diet systems from around the world, including improving upon the the National Dysphagia Diet (NDD),
- a living document that will change to reflect the best evidence available,
- created by a global-multidisciplinary group of clinicians, researchers, and scientists without industry influences, and
- based on terminology that translates well into the world's languages.

We need to adopt IDDSI, as it has the **full support** of the following national organizations:

- Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (AND),
- American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), and the
- Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ANFP).

With IDDSI, we (healthcare providers) can look to forward to:

- **Improved safety with dining,**
- **Improved outcomes** to track nutrition and therapy progress,
- **New research** that will have a standardized foundation on which to build reliable and valid conclusions to help guide our best practices, and
- **Improved standards for industry** to adhere to in making their dysphagia products safer, more consistent, and with standardized labeling.

IDDSI is a living document, guided by global consensus; therefore, we know that by switching to IDDSI, we will always be providing our patients with the BEST!