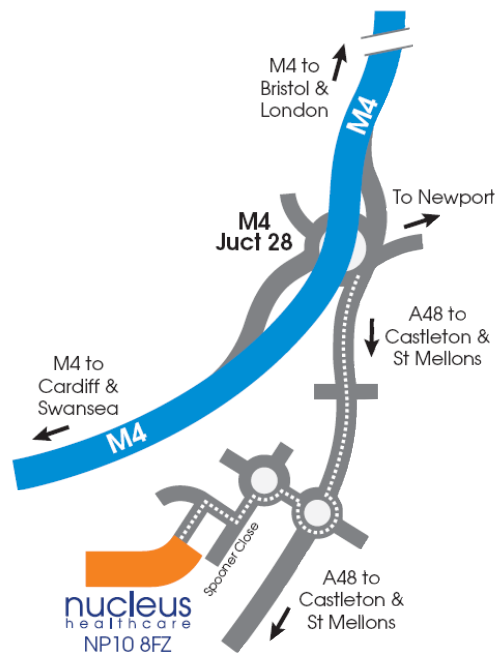


This fact sheet was designed to help you. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions of our specialists and nurses

If you have any problems following your procedure please ring

Nucleus Healthcare during opening hours 07.30hrs – 18.00hrs



COELIAC DISEASE

Nucleus Healthcare
Spooner Close
Newport
NP10 8FZ

TELEPHONE 01633 815900

FAX 01633 815915

What is coeliac disease?

It is a condition in which the lining of the small intestine becomes damaged when it is exposed to even small amounts of gluten.

Gluten is a substance found in wheat, barley, rye, oats and millet. As a result affected patients absorb food and nutrients poorly, resulting in deficiencies of vitamins, minerals and sometimes protein, carbohydrates and fats.

Coeliac disease is easily treated by scrupulously avoiding the consumption of all products including gluten i.e. a gluten free diet.

How is coeliac disease diagnosed?

Your doctor's assessment and if appropriate, blood tests will determine whether coeliac disease is likely.

A gastroscopy is required to collect a tissue sample from your intestine. This is a simple, safe and painless procedure. A pathologist examines this tissue biopsy in order to make a proper diagnosis.

Biopsy results take 7 days to reach you GP or specialist. If coeliac disease is diagnosed then follow up consultations can begin, including individual dietary planning.

What are the symptoms?

Although there are no specific symptoms of the disease, diarrhoea, weight loss, nausea, flatulence and abdominal discomfort are commonly experienced. Tiredness and weakness may occur – often the only sign is unexplained iron deficiency anaemia. In children coeliac disease can also cause delayed growth and development, irritability and a poor appetite, in addition to gastro-intestinal problems and anaemia.

Of course, many of the above mentioned complaints are very common in the community and are not necessarily due to coeliac disease.

Does it run in families?

It certainly can. About one in ten close family relatives of an affected patient may also have coeliac disease. There is also an association with diabetes.

What should I do if someone in my family has coeliac disease?

Again, your GP should be your first contact. You may like to produce this fact sheet indicating where you read about this condition.

What is the treatment if I have coeliac disease?

The following is intended as a general guide only and you are encouraged to consult with your doctor and/or dietician. All that is needed is a strict diet avoiding all gluten containing products. Medication is rarely necessary. This needs to be continued for life because all coeliac patients remain sensitive to gluten indefinitely and simple measures can transform the lives of people affected by the disease.

Foods to avoid:	Foods to include:
Flours - wheat flour, rye flour, millet meal, cornflour made with wheat, custard powder	Rice flour, arrowroot, cornmeal, pure cornflour, soya flour
Bread – All bread including rye and commercial soya bread, biscuits, pastries, buns, muffins, pikelets, crumpets, croissants, breadcrumbs (unless labelled gluten-free) Cereals – breakfast cereals containing wheat, oats, semolina, barley, rye, malt millet, wheatgerm, wheatbran, oatbran	Rice cakes, some ricecrackers (check label), gluten free bread, biscuits rolls
Pasta – spaghetti, noodles, vermicelli, pasta, instant pasta meals (unless labelled gluten-free)	Rice and corn breakfast cereals, homemade muesli using allowed ingredients
Fruit – Commercial thickened fruit pie filling (unless labelled gluten-free)	Fresh, canned, frozen and dried fruit, fruit juices
Vegetables – Canned or frozen in sauce, commercially prepared vegetable and potato salad (unless checked)	Fresh, frozen, canned without sauces, dehydrated, vegetable juices
Meat, fish poultry – foods prepared or thickened with flour, battered or crumbed, sausages, processed meats and fish (unless checked), meat pies, frozen dinners	Fresh, smoked, corned, frozen without sauces, crumbs or batters, canned meat, fish without sauce or cereal. Ham, bacon, corned beef, gluten-free sausages

Gluten-free bread and biscuits and other products are now widely available from supermarkets and health food shops.

Foods to avoid:	Foods to include:
Dairy products – cheese mixtures, pastes and spreads (unless checked), malted artificial cream, ice cream with cone or crumbs	Block or processed cheese, cream or cottage cheese, UHT, evaporated, powdered milks and condensed milk, yoghurt, buttermilk, plain or flavoured ice cream, fresh or canned cream
Legumes, nuts – processed varieties of legumes if thickened, textured vegetable protein products	Dried or fresh beans, nuts, seeds peanut butter, gluten-free canned baked beans
Take-away foods – hamburgers, pizza, souvlaki, sausages, battered food (e.g. fried fish) crumbed food (e.g. crumbed chicken)	Steamed rice, grilled fish, chicken, steak, steamed vegetables (see commercial food list)
Snacks – packet savoury snacks, some sweets and filled chocolates, liquorice, many frozen desserts	Plain chocolate, popcorn, jelly, meringue, gluten-free corn chips, rice cakes
Beverages – coffee substitutes, Ovaltine, Milo, drinking chocolate, milk flavourings, malt, ale, stout, most beers	Water, tea, coffee, cocoa milk, cordials, soft drinks, soda water, mineral water, fruit and vegetable juices
Miscellaneous – malt vinegar, soy sauce containing wheat, baking powders, mixed seasonings, beef extract (e.g. Marmite), sauces, pickles, relish, chutney, salad dressing (unless checked)	Tomato sauce, vinegar, honey, jam, yeast extracts (e.g. Vegemite), peanut butter, salad dressings without flour, gelatine, gluten-free baking powder and custard powder, gluten-free soya sauce, sugar, golden syrup

