Contact Details

Bolton Eating Disorder Service 201204 462 785

Chester Eating Disorder Service 201244 397 755

Macclesfield Eating Disorder Service 201625 505 621

Trafford Eating Disorder Service 201925 248 475

Warrington and Halton Eating Disorder Service 248 475

Wirral Eating Disorder Service 20151 488 7342

This leaflet should be provided at an appointment with an Eating Disorders Dietitian or Practitioner and not replace a face to face discussion

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Feedback

We welcome any suggestions you have, please send your comments, concerns, complaints and compliments to: The Patient Experience Team, Trust Board Offices, Upton Lea, Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1BQ.

For more information see www.cwp.nhs.uk

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Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS NHS Foundation Trust

Low FODMAP diet and Eating Disorders

Eating Disorders Service

Care • Well-being • Partnership

Introduction

Below is a brief explanation of the low FODMAP diet in relation to Eating Disorders.

What is a low FODMAP diet?

FODMAP stands for Fermentable Oligosaccharides, Disaccharides, Monosaccharides and Polyols. These are types of carbohydrates that are not easily broken down and absorb by the gut. As such they can ferment, release gases and cause bloating. A low FODMAP diet involves restricting the intake of foods that are high in FODMAPs.

When is a low FODMAP diet indicated?

A low FODMAP diet may be considered as a dietary approach in the management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Research suggests that it is an effective form of treatment for improving the gastrointestinal symptoms of IBS (bloating, wind, abdominal pain and altered bowl habits) in about 70% of people who try it.

Is a low FODMAP diet suitable whilst recovering from an Eating Disorder?

Gastrointestinal symptoms are commonly reported by individuals diagnosed with an eating disorder and can worsen during the initial stages of treatment and recovery. However these symptoms generally improve/resolve once normal eating* and digestion is re-established.

A low FODMAP diet may be indicated if IBS type symptoms persist when normal eating is in a maintenance stage. However reducing high FODMAP foods can be complex, time consuming and promote a diet that is overly restrictive, not well balanced and does not meet nutritional needs. It is therefore recommended that a low FODMAP diet is not undertaken without professional support from a Dietitian.

If you have been following a low FODMAP diet whilst struggling with an eating disorder, it may be appropriate to reintroduce high FODMAP foods to reduce food restriction, promote a healthy varied diet and aid the overall recovery process. A Dietitian can help support you with this process and to consider alternative management options.

*For further information on "normal eating" please see additional handouts

- Normal Eating
- Re-establishing Normal Eating

Further information on IBS, FODMAPs and Eating Disorders: http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Irritablebowel-

syndrome/Pages/Treatment.aspx http://www.kcl.ac.uk/lsm/research/divis ions/dns/projects/fodmaps/faq.aspx https://www.b-eat.co.uk