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Healthy Eating for Older Adults

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**Fluid Facts**

- Adults need an average of eight cups of water a day.
- Water is needed to keep your body working properly.
- By not getting enough water, you can become dehydrated.
- Signs of dehydration include: dry skin, dry mouth and throat, rapid heart rate, lack of energy and weakness.
- To increase your water intake, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator and drink from it throughout the day.
- Try not to drink too many products with caffeine. They can make your body lose water.
- Thirst is not a good indicator of need for water.

**Meals in Minutes**

- Too busy or tired to cook? Try these ideas to create meals in minutes!
- Bored with oatmeal or Cream of Wheat? Try adding milk to your favorite dry cereal and heat it up in the microwave for a quick hot cereal.
- Keep your pantry stocked with “quick foods” such as canned fruit or vegetables, pasta, rice, tuna and peanut butter.
- Plan to cook one day of the week to prepare meals for the rest of the week.
- When you do have time to cook, make a double batch and freeze the rest for later.
- When you make casseroles or soup, put the leftovers in small containers and freeze for another time.
- Cut up fresh fruits and vegetables when you get them, so they are on hand when you are in a hurry.
- Occasionally buy individual frozen meals to be used for fast meals and easy clean-up.

**On a Budget?**

- Buying food can be expensive. Here are some tips for cutting down your food budget:
  - Make a shopping list and stick to it.
  - Don’t shop when you are hungry. You’ll buy more than you need.
  - Shop only once a week.
  - Compare prices. Generic or store brands are usually cheaper.
  - Ready made foods may be more expensive than making the food yourself.
  - Buy fruit and vegetables at various stages of ripeness so you can have one for today and one that will be ripe in a few days.
Oat Bran Muffins  
Yield: 12 muffins

2 1/4 cups oat bran  
1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1 Tbsp. baking powder  
1 banana, mashed  
3/4 cup applesauce  
2 Tbsp. dried fruit (raisins or dates)  
1 egg  
1/2 cup orange juice  
3/4 cup skim milk  
2 Tbsp. canola oil

Preheat oven to 425°. Mix the first four dry ingredients. Set aside. Mix the egg with orange juice, milk and oil. Mix fruit and blend with dry ingredients. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry until it is moist. Spray muffin tin with a non-stick coating. Pour batter into muffin tins. Bake for 15 to 17 minutes. Remove muffins from pan after 10 minutes. Cool on a rack. Freeze muffins for later use.

Nutrition Facts

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<tr>
<th>Serving Size</th>
<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
<th>% Daily Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Servings Per Container 12</td>
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