

# DAILY FOOD JOURNAL GUIDELINES

## FOOD JOURNAL COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

Write down the types of foods you eat at each meal. Record ANYTHING and EVERYTHING that passes over your lips each day. This includes snacks and the “little nibbles” you think are insignificant. *Be as honest and specific as possible!* Include sauces, gravies, and condiments.

## WRITE DOWN EVERY MORSEL

Keep your food journal forms with you all day and write down everything you eat and/or drink, no matter how small or large the serving. Even if you eat a small piece of candy, a whole bag or cookies, a handful of nuts/seeds, a soda, or juice, write down ANYTHING you consume.

## RECORD ANY DIGESTIVE and/or MOOD CHANGES

Many experience intestinal gas, bloating, belching and other digestive pangs after eating. Your practitioner needs to be informed of these digestive symptoms. Also, if you experience energy and/or mood changes after eating, this is a sign that you may be eating an imbalanced diet (i.e. too many carbohydrates, too little fat and protein). Please record any digestive, energy, and/or mood changes as these are helpful clues for your practitioner.

## RECORD BOWEL MOVEMENTS

If we are eliminating too often, this may be a sign of food allergies/intolerances. If we are eliminating too slowly, this may be an indication of a sluggish digestive tract. Please record **when** you have a bowel movement each day and also include whether or not you see undigested food in your stools, and/or if your stools are poorly formed (flat, loose), and/or if your stools are light in color. These are important elimination symptoms that are helpful to your practitioner.

## DO IT NOW!

Write down what you are eating and drinking immediately. Don't depend on your memory at the end of the day to help you fill in the blanks. Record what you eat and drink throughout the day.

## BE SPECIFIC

If you eat a whole pizza, WRITE IT DOWN! Include what was on the pizza (dough, cheese, meat, veggies, etc., etc.) and also include what you ate with it (soda, salad, pasta, bread sticks, and so on). Please include the ounces of beverages and cup measurements of food as often as possible. For example, if you write down that you had a bottle of water, please state the ounces of water in that bottle. If you cook at home, please indicate what type of fat/oil you used (olive, coconut, butter). Include all foods cooked and eaten along with main meals, as well as beverages and dessert, if any.

## TELL THE TRUTH

You have nothing to gain by trying to look good or pleasing your practitioner when completing your food journal. Your practitioner can be much more helpful to you if he/she knows **EXACTLY** what you are consuming and/or craving. No one is judging you, so help your practitioner serve you better by being **completely honest** about your eating habits