

Problems

☹ When new products become available on prescription, they are often not easy to obtain because the wholesaler you use may not have obtained supplies. It is best to put in your order as usual and then contact the supplier and order the product direct until stocks are available locally.

☹ Many gluten free products are similar in appearance to the low protein foods, **but are not suitable** for the patient on a protein restricted diet as they often have protein added in the form of egg, milk or soya. This will increase the protein content of the product to a level too high for patients following a low phenylalanine diet.

☹ There are some low protein foods produced by small companies that may not be available from your wholesaler. If you have difficulty obtaining any of the low protein foods they should be ordered directly from the company.

☹ **Caution—Low protein products are Gluten free, but Gluten free products are NOT low protein**

Help!!

Should you experience any problems obtaining any of the low protein foods or amino acid supplements it is worth contacting the manufacturer directly as they often have sufficient stocks of the products.

The dietitian can be contacted at any time during office hours to discuss any problems or concerns you may have about the prescriptions for the patients with PKU.

HOW?

Dietitian:

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Hospital:

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Contact No:

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For more information about PKU contact:

NSPKU at www.nspku.org or
Phone 0845-603-9136

The patient with Phenylketonuria (PKU)

Information for Pharmacists



Pharmacy



What is PKU?

Phenylketonuria (PKU) is an inherited metabolic disorder affecting the metabolism of foods containing protein. The enzyme required to convert the amino acid Phenylalanine into Tyrosine is either missing or its activity greatly reduced. PKU is diagnosed by screening at birth.

If untreated, the build up of phenylalanine in the blood will result in severe brain damage.

PKU is treated by restricting the natural protein in the diet. The protein foods are replaced by a synthetic amino acid mix and the diet supplemented by a variety of low protein foods available on prescription. These low protein foods provide energy, bulk and variety in the diet.

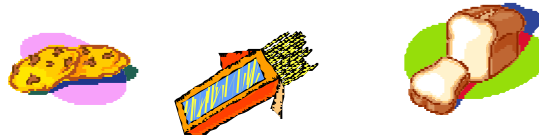
Prescriptions

Children and adults with PKU will require regular prescriptions for their low protein foodstuffs. These items are an integral part of the treatment of PKU and without these foods the dietary management will not be successful.

Low protein foods

There are a large variety of low protein foods available from several manufacturers. The patient will often prefer one manufacturer to another for different items.

It is important to encourage the variety in the diet so that patients will not resort to seeking restricted foods and thereby upsetting their dietary management.



Amino Acid Supplements



Every patient following a low phenylalanine diet requires an amino acid supplement to replace the forbidden high protein foods.

It is vital they have a constant supply of this essential supplement. If they do not receive this supplement then the phenylalanine levels will rise because the patient will become catabolic.

There are several types of amino acid supplement. Once the child or adult is established on one they tend not to change for several years. Supplies can therefore be ordered in advance to ensure a constant intake.

There are a range of amino acid supplements for other metabolic disorders which have similar label colour, label design and names to the phenylalanine free supplements. These are not suitable for the treatment of PKU.