May 2018

Dear Manager

**Re: Changes to thickening product Nutilis Clear**

As you are aware, descriptions for thickened drinks are changing from three stages to four levels – these will be referred to as ‘IDDSI levels 1-4’ (International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative levels).

What does this mean for my residents?

As a result of the change there will be new labelling on tins of Nutilis Clear which will be available from community pharmacies from mid-May 2018. The new tins will have: a red sticker on the lid, a new green scoop in the tin (which will be smaller than the previous purple scoop), and the new IDDSI directions for use.

**This change affects the number of scoops required to thicken drinks. As a result the thickness of the drink may be slightly different. Please see conversion chart enclosed for instructions on how many of the new scoops will be needed to thicken drinks.**

**We have enclosed a care home poster, patient information letter, and patient instruction sheet which will be sent to your residents receiving a prescription of Nutilis Clear at the beginning of May 2018.**

Timelines for change

* Tins of Nutilis Clear with the new scoop will be available from mid-May 2018.
* Acute Hospitals in Hampshire will start assessing and discharging patients on the new IDDSI level from June 2018
* Dorset Hospitals have already transitioned and are recommending IDDSI levels based on the new green scoops

Please note: there will be a short period of time (4-6 weeks) when existing tins and new tins will be available.

If you have any concerns about how to convert your residents to the new number of scoops, in the first instance, **please contact your Speech and Language Therapy Team**.

For further information, resources and training, please visit [www.iddsi.org](http://www.iddsi.org).

Nutricia has also produced a 20-25min training module for understanding IDDSI and the changes to Nutilis Clear: [https://www.nutriciahcp.com/adult/Studies/Dysphagia\_Learning\_Module/#](https://www.nutriciahcp.com/adult/Studies/Dysphagia_Learning_Module/)

Please disseminate to all staff to make them aware of this change.

Ensure care plans and documentations are updated, very clear and highlighted to all staff.

Further plans about the full IDDSI implementation in Hampshire are currently being developed.

**Ideally your Home should use the same ‘Clear’ thickener for all residents to minimise risks.**

Yours sincerely

Medicine Optimisation Team