

Appendix 2: Additional Information

Carehome Residents

- ❖ Carers may ask you to prescribe an ONS for a patient resident in a carehome. You may also be asked to refer the patient to see a dietitian.
- ❖ **Do not automatically prescribe an ONS – carers must:**
 - satisfy you that they have tried *Food First* for at least a month with no improvement
 - provide you with recent weights, BMI and the MUST assessments/scores

Ask carers to complete the *Care Home Prescription Request Form – New***, which requests this information from them.

Follow these guidelines then to ascertain whether to prescribe ONS and consider whether to refer to the Dietetic Department.

- ❖ For patients on ONS, it is essential that you continue to monitor progress per **STEPS 6 & 7** of this guidance.

Ask carers to complete the *Care Home Prescription Request Form – Repeat* to seek the weight and MUST scores when repeat prescriptions are requested.**

** Available from MK Formulary website: <http://formularymk.nhs.uk/9-Nutrition-and-Blood/>

TTO's

- ❖ Often, patients in hospital have a poor appetite but when they are discharged, their appetite returns.
- ❖ Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust should discharge the patient with 14 days' supply of ONS if the patient needs them at least in the short term.
- ❖ The dietitian will write to you if ONS are required once the 14 day supply from the hospital has run out. The dietitian will advise whether they will review the patient or whether care is discharged back to you.
- ❖ ***In the absence of any formal guidance from the dietitian on discharge, do not automatically prescribe ONS that are on TTO's without following STEPS 1-5 first.***

Community Nursing

(matrons, district nurses, long term conditions nurses etc.)

- ❖ Community nursing staff are trained to MUST screen and give *Food First* advice.
- ❖ They should provide you with recent weight(s), BMI and the MUST assessments/score(s) if they do ask you to prescribe ONS for a patient.
- ❖ They should also confirm that they have tried *Food First* prior to requesting the ONS (unless they, or you, have serious concerns about a patient's nutritional status or oral intake, in which case continue to use your clinical judgement in this respect).
- ❖ For these patients, establish whether you will review the patient's nutritional progress - or whether community nursing will and feedback to you.