

Reply to - Letter to the Editor by Pedrolli C entitled 'IDDSI: Worth or not?'

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Reply to - Letter to the editor by Pedrolli C entitled 'IDDSI: worth or not?'

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Conflict of interest

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We thank very much Dr. Carlo Pedrolli for his interest in our recently published 'ESPEN guideline on hospital nutrition' and for his lauding words [1]. We also notice his confusion and will try to clarify the issue on International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation (IDDSI) and texture modification. The reason for mentioning several different systems for describing the consistency of food and drink [1] was to highlight that there is currently no uniform terminology used in this area. There are different systems for texture modification in different countries, and in the routine practices prescriptions vary between countries and health care systems.

With regard to the imperative in recommendation 49 [2], we refer to the position of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) in October 2021. In May 2019, after a joint statement by AND and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, IDDSI was officially launched as the standard terminology for describing consistency modification of food and drink in the United States, and in October 2021 AND stated that "It is imperative that all healthcare providers globally implement IDDSI, both to ensure patient safety and to maintain current standards of practice. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is pleased to announce beginning October 2021, IDDSI will be the only texture classification" [2].

We want to be clear that this is not a position held by the European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN). However, although there are several different systems for describing the consistencies of food and drinks, we acknowledge that IDDSI has achieved widespread use internationally in recent years and, for that reason, we would like to mention this taxonomy.

In conclusion, we hope that you and many others will profit from this guideline and thank again for the comments.

References

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2. International Dysphagia Diet Standardization Initiative: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; 2021 [cited 2021 29th of December]. Available from: https://www.eatrightpro.org/practice/practice-resources/post-acute-long-term-care-management/international-dysphagia-diet-standardization-initiative.

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