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Wendy J. Dahl and Lauren Foster²

Older adults that have experienced weight loss may need foods high in nutrients and calories to restore nutritional health.

- Foods that are **gpgti** { '**f gpug** have lots of calories per serving. The calories may come from protein, fat, or carbohydrates.
- Foods that are pwt kgpvf gpug have high levels of nutrients per serving. Nutrient dense refers to the amount of vitamins, minerals, and/or protein in a food.

Some foods can be energy dense and provide few nutrients, while some foods can be nutrient dense but provide little energy or calories. Foods for the older adult that has lost weight should target *both* energy and nutrient density.

Energy-dense foods are often high in sugar and fat. Although a liberal fat diet may be recommended for the older adult that has lost weight, it is important that some of the energy-dense foods served to the older adult be high in protein.

Vegetables are often nutrient dense but energy densities for most are low. It is recommended that fats and sauces be added to vegetables to increase the energy densities of these foods.

""Whole milk
"Creamed soups
""Full-fat cheeses
"Pudding
Meat with gravy
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Gd]bUW is nutrient dense but provides few calories.

7\ YYgY is both energy and nutrient dense.

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