# **Nutrition Matters**

Proper nutrition is important throughout your life. It can help reduce the risk and manage some diseases that are common in older adults. Understanding the Nutrition Facts Label found on packaged foods will help you make food choices that are best for your health.

#### 1. Serving Size

The nutrition information is based on **one serving** of the food. Serving size is the amount of food that is typically eaten at one time. Servings per container show the total number of servings in the food package.

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**TIP:** When comparing calories and nutrients in different foods, check the serving size in order to make an accurate comparison.

#### 2. Calories

Calories refer to the total number of calories in **one serving** of the food.

#### 3. Percent Daily Value (%DV)

%DV shows how the nutrients in one serving of the food contribute to your total daily diet. It is based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Ask your health care provider what calorie level is right for you.

Nutrition Fa   servings per container   Serving size 2/3 cu	
mount per serving	230
% [	Daily Value*
fotal Fat 8g	10%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
<i>Trans</i> Fat 0g	
Cholesterol Omg	0%
odium 160mg	7%
<b>fotal Carbohydrate</b> 37g	13%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20%
Protein 3g	
/itamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
ron 8mg	45%
	6%

### 4. Nutrients to Limit

Saturated fat, sodium, added sugars, and *trans* fat may increase your risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, some cancers, and high blood pressure. Try to keep your intake of these nutrients as low as possible each day.

## 5. Important Nutrients for Your Health

Most people do not get the recommended amount of dietary fiber, vitamin D, calcium, iron, and potassium. These nutrients can reduce your risk of developing some health conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease, anemia, and osteoporosis. Try to get 100% DV of these nutrients on most days.

**TIP:** As a general guide, 5% DV or less of a nutrient per serving is considered low, and 20% DV or more of a nutrient per serving is considered high.

