



Delivering special foods  
for special people



## Companies providing special foods for special people

The line between an adequate food intake and malnutrition is not clear-cut.

Through life, from infants to the elderly, there are situations where people need specialist nutritional support, times when normal foods cannot be consumed and particular ingredients or textures may be needed or must be avoided.

Premature babies, infants who fail to thrive, those being prepared for surgery or with cancer, people with chronic allergies, mental or neurological diseases or suffering from strokes, the frail, the elderly, the HIV infected, all can need special foods. Without a combination of specialist foods, the

support of healthcare practitioners and the right forms of delivery, such people would become severely malnourished.

Malnutrition can result in decreased resistance to disease, children's growth being retarded and poor wound healing. If left untreated, illness, mental and physical disability and even death can occur.

In Britain, two million or more individuals currently suffer from under-nutrition and it is estimated that a further two million are at risk through illness or frailty.

Specialist medical foods can need to be administered in specific, controlled ways. Our members provide all the necessary expertise to ensure this happens.

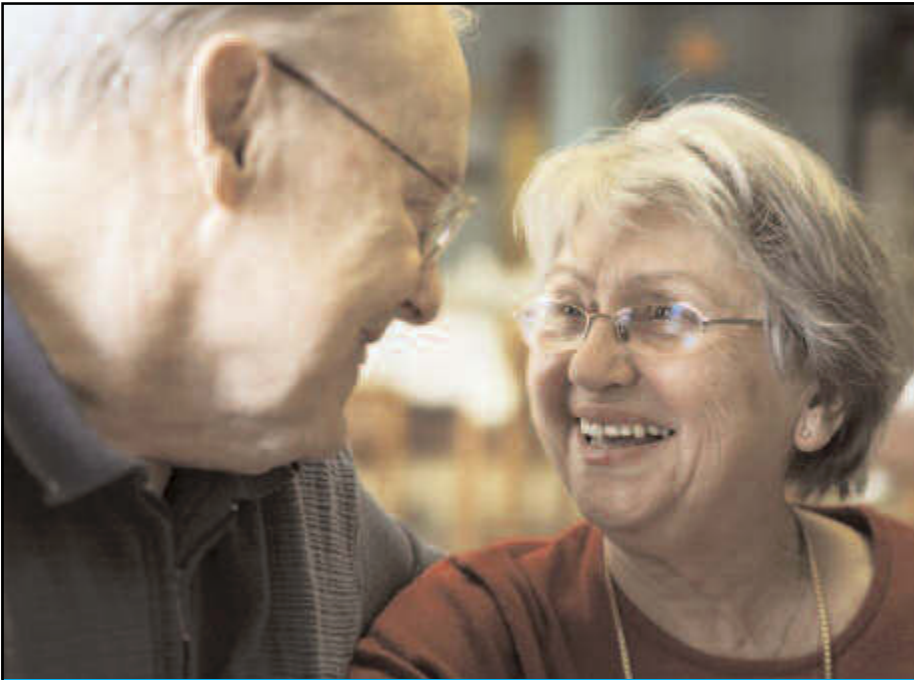
### Child suffering from cow's milk allergy



Before treatment



After treatment



## So what are the products and how are they used?

Some nutrition is delivered by means of a tube - through the nose or directly into the stomach. BSNA members provide the preparation or liquid and the equipment to deliver it.

Oral feeds are for patients who have difficulty swallowing or digesting solid food or who need certain supplements. We provide a whole range of different flavours and textures to meet their special needs.

These tube-delivered and oral foods help people with conditions which include cancer, dementia, kidney failure, cystic fibrosis and the intestinal ulcer-like inflammation of Crohn's disease.

Some babies are born with problems of digestion which can even cause brain damage. These conditions mean they cannot take in key nutrients. Other babies have problems through being born prematurely, suffering from allergies or failing to grow. We supply the baby and infant foods for special medical purposes which they must have to survive.

Gluten-intolerance is increasingly identified as a problem. It makes eating wheat foods, such as many breads and cereals, difficult if not impossible. For such people, BSNA members manufacture the gluten-free foods they need.

Kidney and liver diseases mean some people need low-protein foods. Again, it is BSNA members who produce the special low-protein foods they need.

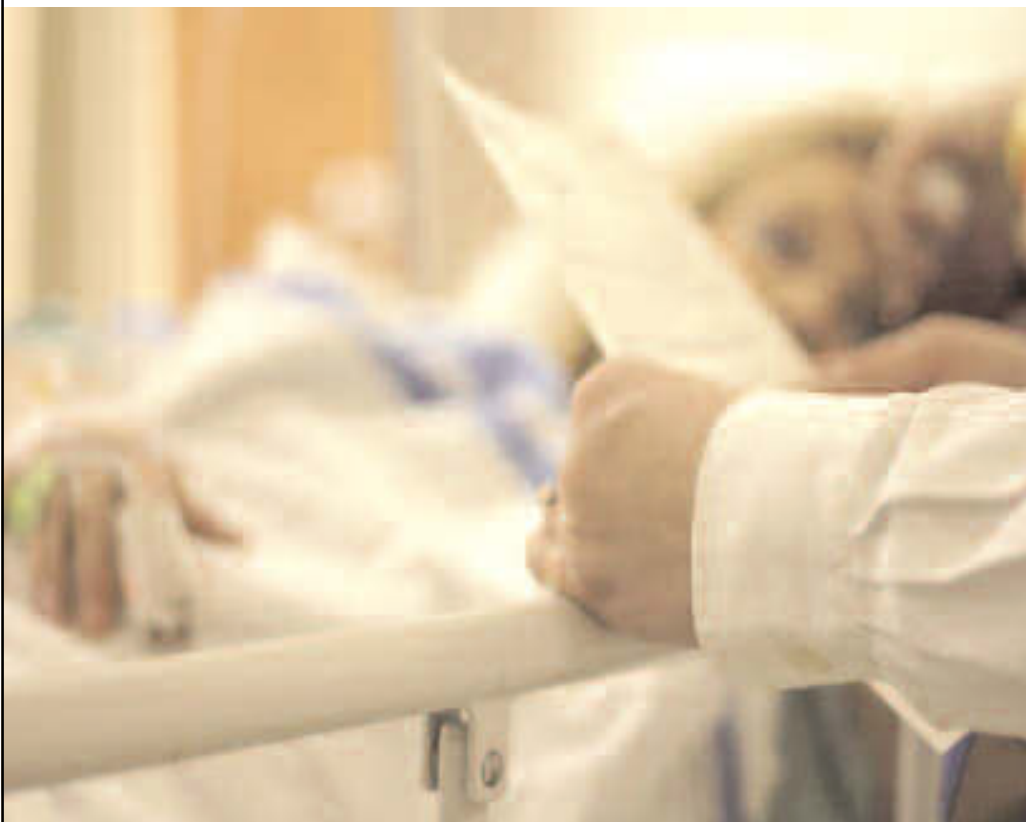
## Who are the people we serve?

- babies
- children
- the elderly
- the chronic long-term sick
- care home residents
- many people in or just out of hospital

## Are these medicines?

No, but they are special foods for medical purposes which:

- are generally recommended by health professionals
- are often provided only on prescription
- have to be taken under medical supervision
- require monitoring



## Who are we?

The member companies of the Infant and Dietetic Foods Association who supply infant and adult medical foods:



**NUTRICIA**





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"delivering special foods for special people"