

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Macmillan health and social care professionals fact sheet

Short version

Our professionals are specialists in their area of cancer care and leaders in their field. They provide vital support from the time someone suspects they have cancer to when they no longer want our help.

Medium version

Our professionals are specialists in their area of cancer care and leaders in their field. They provide vital support from the time someone suspects they have cancer to when they no longer want our help. They coordinate care, relieve pain and help people deal with the practical and emotional effects of cancer.

Long version

Our professionals are specialists in their area of cancer care and leaders in their field. They provide vital support from the time someone suspects they have cancer to when they no longer want our help. They coordinate care, relieve pain and help people deal with the practical and emotional effects of cancer.

People with cancer have told us that they find visiting a wide range of health and social care professionals difficult. So we are encouraging the development of integrated teams of specialists that include everyone from Macmillan nurses, consultants, physiotherapists and radiographers, to dietitians, speech therapists and benefits advisers.

Medical support:

Macmillan nurses are a vital source of support for people living with cancer and their families. They specialise in providing care, support and information from the moment someone is diagnosed with cancer onwards. We currently have nearly 3,000 Macmillan nurses, most of who work in the NHS.

See our *Macmillan nurses* fact sheet for more information.

Macmillan doctors use their skills to improve cancer care. There are currently around 240 Macmillan doctors. They are responsible for coordinating and improving the care of people living with cancer in their local area.

See our *Macmillan doctors* fact sheet for more information.

Macmillan information radiographers provide support to patients undergoing radiotherapy and give information about their particular cancer and its treatment.

Macmillan physiotherapists help patients improve their mobility and regain any muscle function lost as a result of their cancer or its treatment. Typically, they do this by using special exercises or massage therapy.

Macmillan speech and language therapists support patients who have language or speech difficulties, or problems swallowing following surgery or radiotherapy.

Macmillan clinical geneticists screen individuals to find out if they carry genes for certain known genetic cancers, such as breast cancer. They also offer advice and counselling to people living with cancer.

Macmillan pharmacists prepare drugs and dispense medicines prescribed by a patient's doctor, oncologist or nurse for the treatment of their cancer. They also provide much-needed information for people with cancer and their families.

Macmillan dietitians give dietary and nutritional advice and care to people with cancer. During treatment, some patients experience a loss of appetite or nausea that might cause them to lose weight. Others may have long-term side effects as a result of surgery or treatment and might need to change their diet.

Emotional support:

Macmillan clinical psychologists work with patients and their families to help them cope with the emotional effects of cancer.

Practical support:

Macmillan occupational therapists advise and help patients manage day-to-day activities. As part of this, they supply patients with any special equipment they need to adapt to being back at home after cancer treatment.

Macmillan social workers work with community and social services agencies to help people deal with the social and practical problems of living with cancer.

Financial support:

Macmillan benefits advisers offer guidance to people affected by cancer so they receive the financial support they're entitled to and desperately need.

Please see our *Financial help* fact sheet for more information.

Information:

Macmillan information and support service managers develop and run local cancer information and support services that are open to anyone who is concerned about cancer. Some services are in hospitals, while others are based in the community, such as in libraries or GP surgeries.

Macmillan black and minority ethnic liaison officers work alongside other healthcare professionals to ensure that people from minority ethnic communities have access to cancer services. They also help raise awareness of cultural and religious diversity.

Key facts

Macmillan has **4,132** health and social care professionals.

Macmillan nurses helped **352,000** people in **2008**.

Macmillan doctors helped **11,000** people in **2008**.

Our other healthcare professionals, including radiographers, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, dietitians and psychologists, helped **69,000** people in **2008**.

Macmillan benefits advice services helped **37,000** people in **2008**. They secured at least **£50 million** in extra benefits for the people they helped.

£184 could pay for a Macmillan nurse/physiotherapist/dietitian/pharmacist/occupational therapist for a working day.

£2,026 could pay for a Macmillan rehabilitation support team for a working week. They are based in the community and provide a range of rehabilitation support, such as physiotherapy and advice on diet, to people living with cancer.

Visit macmillan.org.uk/professionals to find out more.

Fact sheet last updated: August 2009