

Improving cancer care and support for people living with and beyond cancer

Macmillan is working with the UK governments to improve the survivorship element of the cancer care pathway. This includes the [National Cancer Survivorship Initiative](#) (NCSI), a partnership in England with the Department of Health, supported by [NHS Improvement](#). The aim of NCSI is to ensure that people living with and beyond cancer get the care and support they need to lead as healthy and active a life as possible, for as long as possible.

To date we have been working to develop and test initiatives around the [NCSI vision \(2010\)](#) and [five key shifts](#) to help health and social care professionals improve care and support for cancer survivors:

Support from the point of diagnosis

Whether its providing clear information about treatment options, support around decision making or early conversations about work, survivorship support should start at the point of diagnosis. We have been working to raise awareness of survivorship care as well as specific projects around supporting patients and employers with [Vocational Rehabilitation](#).

Promoting recovery

Delivering a package of support to cancer patients as they begin their recovery can help improve their quality of life and independence, as well as reducing their health service utilisation, saving resources. We have developed and tested interventions to support robust and effective [Holistic Needs Assessment and care planning](#), [Treatment summaries](#), [Cancer Care Reviews](#) as well as new models of care such as providing an end of treatment transition event such as [a Health and wellbeing clinic](#) (also see Macmillan [Learn Zone](#)).

Sustaining recovery

Follow-up should be tailored to the needs of individuals- stratifying patients for follow-up according to their risk can ensure that needs are better met and that resources are used efficiently. We have worked to develop a range of resources and evidence to support [Risk Stratification](#) and help patients to [self-manage](#), including remote monitoring of tests (such as imaging and tumour markers) and educational material to help professionals to encourage healthy lifestyle behaviours. Alongside this the benefits of [physical activity](#) at all stages in the cancer journey are now recognised, these have been promoted through the [Move More](#) campaign and the [Walking for Health](#) partnership with the Ramblers.

Managing the consequences of treatment

As the number of cancer survivors grows, so will the number of people living with the consequences of treatment. The nature of consequences of treatment mean that they vary significantly between patients in frequency, timing, severity and impact on quality of life - therefore the level and nature of support that they require will also vary. We are working to better understand the consequences of cancer treatment and to prepare patients and their care providers to identify and manage them (using assessment and care planning tools, treatment summaries, health and wellbeing clinics and clinical guidance). We are testing key service improvements to provide [specialist care](#) such as that needed for [pelvic radiation disease](#). We are also working with a group of research active nurses and allied health professionals ([CCaT](#)) to influence and improve care for cancer survivors - see [ten top tips for cancer survivors](#) .

Supporting people with active and advanced disease

Although much of the survivorship agenda relates to promoting and sustaining recovery, as well as managing the ongoing effects of treatment, the principles behind high quality survivorship support are every bit as relevant to people with active or advanced disease. We are working to develop our understanding of the issues faced by people with active and advanced disease. This includes issues about keeping well, accessing other support services, re-entering the healthcare system – for example at a time of recurrence and the progression of illness to end of life.