

News archive

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News

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

December is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and we've got a [range of resources to help you get involved](#).

Patient experience matters - download our updated top tips guide

As a result of the recent [Cancer Patient Experience Survey](#) in England, we've made some improvements to our '[Top Tips Guide](#)' on patient experience for England. The updated guide provides you with practical tips and tools to improve the experience of people affected by cancer using your services. It's based on information and feedback from patients themselves.

Earlier this year, Macmillan in Wales launched a similar [Guide for Local Health Boards](#). Look out for an update on the Welsh Cancer Patient Experience Survey in the January edition.

Macmillan's service development teams can work with you to help you improve patient experience and can offer advice on practical solutions to deliver improvements in care. [Contact your service development team to learn more](#).

Improving people's experience of care
top tips guide for people affected by cancer



Improving patient experience through personalised cancer services

Macmillan and Map of Medicine have worked with experts and people affected by cancer to create a national [Improving Cancer Patient Experience Pathway](#). It's designed to help health and social care professionals deliver personalised cancer services and improve patient experience.

This evidence-based pathway shows a patient's journey through support services, complementing the existing clinical care maps in oncology. It signposts to sources of social, emotional, financial and practical support.

[Access the pathway here.](#)

Bringing smiles to children with a malignant brain tumour

The [Tom Grahame Trust](#) and Macmillan have teamed up to create *Tom's Gift*. Its aim is to bring smiles to the faces of children aged 16 or younger who are receiving treatment for a malignant brain tumour, are about to receive treatment, or were recently treated.

Tom's Gift includes a £30 Debenhams gift voucher for the child to spend in-store or online on anything they'll find fun and enjoyable. Plus, every pack contains a small mystery gift and information for their parents or carers explaining how Macmillan can support them in a wide range of ways.

If you work with eligible children, please let their families know they can apply for *Tom's Gift* by [downloading this form](#).

You or a colleague involved with the child's treatment will need to complete the form, along with their family. Find out more at macmillan.org.uk/tomsgift

Our successful partnership with Nursing Times

As part of our campaign that tells your non-Macmillan colleagues about our information and support for people affected by cancer, we've set up a partnership with Nursing Times. There's a [Macmillan Resources Page](#) on their website which tells the nursing community about how our services can complement their excellent care.

We're also proud to support the [Nursing Times Awards - Cancer Nursing Category](#). Stephen Richards, Macmillan's Director of Professionals Engagement, presented the winner, Victoria Harmer, with the award during the ceremony last month. Congratulations to Victoria and all the nominated and shortlisted professionals – many of whom were Macmillan professionals.

Learning and development

Integration in cancer care – from the annual Professionals Event

The Professionals Event took place in Manchester on 7-8 November. We hope that those of you who attended found it useful. If you were unable to be there you can visit the event page on Learn Zone where you can access:

- a summary of discussion groups designed to gather your views on how we could work together more effectively
- the key note speakers' slides and workshop overview
- downloadable posters developed by Macmillan professionals
- a video of Macmillan professionals talking about the moments that matter
- photos from the event.



If you have any feedback about the event or suggestions about our work that you were not able to share at the event, please [email us](#).

Resources for professionals supporting families affected by cancer

Learn Zone offers a range of tools to help you deal with issues that may arise when you're supporting families affected by cancer.

- [Family matters](#): an e-learning course to help you gain awareness of the legal issues that may arise in a family affected by cancer
- [Working with children pre-bereavement](#): an online toolkit developed for professionals working with children and young people when someone close to them has cancer
- [Acorn approach toolkit](#): information about working with children and young people to change attitudes to death and dying, along with templates and tips.

Get involved

Making choice at the end of life a reality



Every year an estimated 36,000 cancer patients in England die in hospital when they would have preferred to die at home. Often this is not because they need to be in hospital, but because the correct support is not available in the community.

Our recently published [Time to choose](#) report for England outlines what needs to happen to improve choice at the end of life. In particular, the report highlights the need for free social care and greater access to 24/7 community services.

We welcome your views on the report and the recommendations. Please [get in touch](#).

Help us end hospital car parking charges

Our [new report](#) has revealed the full cost of hospital parking in England. It shows that 59% of hospitals are still charging at least some cancer patients to use the car park. And where hospitals do charge, cancer patients could be paying up to £3 an hour.

Please help us end these charges. To get involved, [order our campaign pack](#) with all the resources you need to take action.

And if you support people struggling with the cost of hospital parking, please direct them to macmillan.org.uk/travelandparkinghelp

Cancer Emergency Response Tool

The Cancer Emergency Response Tool (CERT) allows cancer patients to manage their own chemotherapy toxicity and disease-related problems which may require urgent hospital assessment.

It's based on the widely used UKONS triage system, endorsed by Macmillan, and is designed to complement hospital-based advice on management of acute oncology.

The people you support can [download it free from iTunes](#).

From the website

New rich pictures of people affected by cancer

Our newly updated Rich Pictures summarise the numbers, needs and experiences of different groups of people affected by cancer, providing health and social care professionals with a valuable insight into these groups.

We are soon to release three new Rich Pictures on black and minority ethnicities, children and teenagers and adults.

There will also be an Emerging Picture on people living with cancer from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

Download these resources at macmillan.org.uk/richpictures

PDF and audio resources at the click of a mouse

For instant access, you can now [download numerous resources](#) available through be.Macmillan as PDFs and MP3 audio files. You can get the information you need immediately or find out what's inside before you order printed copies.

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You don't need to log in to access these resources. Please spread the word about these new easily accessible formats available on be.macmillan.org.uk

[Download November's updates \[PDF\]](#)

[Download October's updates \[PDF\]](#)

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For cancer support every step of the way, call Macmillan free on 0808 808 00 00 (Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk