

Questions about palliative and end-of-life care

Below are some questions you may wish to ask and people who may be able to answer them. The tick indicates a person you might approach with a particular question, though other people may also be able to help.

Questions

Who you could ask

	Your family, friends or partner	Your GP	Your cancer specialist	Your cancer nurse	Hospice staff	Macmillan Support Line or other useful organisations
What is going to happen to me?		✓				
Can I choose where I live and am cared for?		✓				
What financial issues do I need to consider?				✓		✓
Will Macmillan nurses be available and who will contact them?		✓				
Can I and/or my partner receive counselling?		✓				✓
Is bereavement counselling available for my loved ones?		✓			✓	✓
Who can I talk to about how I am feeling?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Can I choose who will be there when I die?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Will any religious or spiritual wishes I have be met?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Where can I get more information about the end of life?		✓	✓	✓		

On the table on the previous page, we have indicated that the Macmillan Support Line or other helpful organisations may be able to help answer some questions.



The table below shows some organisations that may be able to help and what they could be contacted for. You can click on the name of an organisation to visit its website.

Helpful organisations

What they could help with

Age UK; Age Northern Ireland; Age Scotland; Age Cymru (Wales)	Financial or practical concerns, and details of local Age UK branches. These offer a range of services to older people that could help if you have been diagnosed with cancer.
Carers UK; Carers Northern Ireland; Carers Scotland; Carers Wales.	Caring for someone with cancer or another health condition.
Citizens Advice (England and Wales)	Financial or practical concerns or questions.
NHS Direct (England); Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland; NHS 24 (Scotland); NHS Direct Wales.	Symptoms and any problems you experience with your health.
Older People's Advocacy Alliance (OPAAL)	Getting practical and emotional support when you have been diagnosed, and while you're receiving treatment.
Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) (England)	All hospitals in England have access to PALS. They are there to help with any queries you have. They can also help if you would like to make a complaint about your treatment and care.
Social services (contact your local council)	Help at home (such as shopping or cleaning), intensive home care and specialist equipment.