

General Briefing on Macmillan's Westminster Campaigns



Purpose: To provide an update on Macmillan's current campaign priorities.

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Introduction

This briefing provides a short overview of Macmillan Cancer Support's campaign priorities for Westminster in 2012. Macmillan wants everyone living with or beyond cancer to receive the best possible treatment and support, regardless of who they are, where they live or which cancer they have.

Macmillan wants to work with Parliamentarians and decision-makers to:

- Give people at the end of life access to free social care at the end of life and 24/7 community nursing to enable them to die at home if they wish to do so
- Ensure that cancer networks are retained and strengthened in the new NHS and that Clinical Commissioning Groups are held to account on cancer survival
- Improve access to cancer drugs and ensure value-based pricing meets the needs of cancer patients
- Ensure the welfare system provides the right support for cancer patients who are too sick to work.

Improving end of life care

Currently, 73% of cancer patients want to die at home surrounded by their family yet only 27% are able to do so. Home deaths are not only better for patients and their families but they can also save the NHS money by reducing unnecessary and costly emergency admissions.

Macmillan has three priority areas which we believe are key to the challenge of improving end of life care: access to free social care in the last weeks and months of life; access to 24/7 community nursing; and ensuring electronic end of life registers, which record the preferences and wishes of people at the end of life, are available in every part of the country.

We were delighted that the Government stated in the recent Care and Support White Paper that it sees "much merit" in the principle of removing the social care means-test for people in the final weeks and months of life. Macmillan is keen to work with both the Government and Opposition to ensure work progresses quickly to collect data to support this principle.

We are also pleased that the Government has made a number of supportive statements on the need to improve access to 24/7 community nursing and electronic end of life registers. We believe a Commissioning Outcomes Framework (COF)

indicator based on preferred place of death would greatly incentivise Clinical Commissioning Groups to improve 24/7 community nursing services and implement electronic end of life registers.

Macmillan wants Parliamentarians and decision-makers to:

- Support our call in Parliament and in conversations with colleagues for all patients who are on an end of life care register to have access to free social care.
- Support measures, including an indicator on preferred place of death in the COF to encourage better access to 24/7 community nursing and the use of electronic registers.

Cancer Networks at the heart of the new NHS

Cancer networks have a key role to play in the reformed NHS. Since being established 12 years ago they have worked with clinicians, commissioners, and providers to drive up standards of care and improve outcomes for cancer patients. Macmillan wants the NHS Commissioning Board Special Authority to take steps to ensure that networks are at the heart of the new NHS by ensuring that:

- Sufficient staff, including experienced Directors, must be retained in each individual cancer network so they can deliver their functions effectively
- The cancer specific expertise that currently reside in networks will not be lost
- Cancer networks will be tasked with driving improvements across the whole cancer journey, not just in early diagnosis.

Ensuring high quality cancer services in the new NHS

Macmillan is keen to ensure that the quality of cancer services is not compromised by the new commissioning processes and that the outcomes and experiences of all cancer patients continue to improve. To achieve this it is essential that new NHS bodies are held to account on improving cancer survival rates and patient experience.

We are incredibly disappointed that the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Commissioning Outcomes Framework (COF) committee decided to advise against the inclusion of vital cancer survival indicators in the 2013/14 COF. This is a missed opportunity to incentivise Clinical Commissioning Groups to improve cancer survival rates in their areas. Parliamentarians and decision-makers can help us ensure that the new NHS delivers high quality cancer services by:

- Urging the NHS Commissioning Board to rethink NICE's recommendation and include cancer survival rate indicators in the COF 2013/14
- Calling for existing measure on 'one and five year cancer survival rates' to be expanded to cover all cancer types – not just three – and included in both the NHS Outcomes Framework and the COF
- Showing support for the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) to be conducted annually and developed as an indicator in both frameworks

Improving access to cancer treatment for people with rarer cancers

Since the beginning of 2009 Macmillan has been calling on the Government to improve access to effective cancer drugs for people with rare and less common cancers. In December 2011, we released our report [Improving Access?](#) setting out Macmillan's perspective on the implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) and the development of a value-based pricing system.

The Government has not yet set out the detail of how value-based pricing will work in practice and Macmillan is calling for further consultation on the new system to help guarantee that it meets the needs of cancer patients.

Macmillan wants to work with Parliamentarians and decision-makers to:

- Gain a Government commitment to make all drugs that are accessible through the CDF available on the NHS at the beginning of 2014
- Ensure that drugs to treat and control rarer cancers are evaluated fairly in the new system of value-based pricing by the Government.

Improving the welfare system for people with cancer

Macmillan has campaigned throughout the last two years to ensure that cancer patients get the support they need from the welfare system.

We are delighted that the Department for Work and Pensions listened to Macmillan's concerns and recently announced improvements in the way that people with cancer access Employment Support Allowance (ESA). These changes mean there is now a 'presumption' that the vast majority of cancer patients will automatically be placed in the ESA Support Group, avoiding stressful and unnecessary medical assessments as they face the toughest fight of their lives.

Macmillan will continue to campaign to ensure changes to the welfare system don't negatively impact upon people living with cancer and is committed to working with parliamentarians to:

- Ensure that recent adjustments to ESA are implemented quickly and effectively and that they deliver the necessary outcomes for cancer patients
- Ensure that any further changes to the welfare system do not adversely affect vulnerable people with cancer
- Improve access, availability and quality of advice and support given to cancer patients – such as through Vocational Rehabilitation services – in order to help them remain in or return to work.

If you would like any further information about any of our campaigns please contact our Public Affairs Manager, Lucy Grove. LGrove@Macmillan.org.uk, 020 7840 4947