

General Briefing on Macmillan's Campaigns



Purpose: **To provide an update on Macmillan's current campaigns and campaign priorities**
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Introduction

This briefing provides a short overview of Macmillan Cancer Support's campaign priorities for 2012. Macmillan supports 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 cancer patients free social care at the end of life
- Ensure that cancer networks are retained and strengthened in the new NHS
- Improve access to cancer drugs and ensure value-based pricing meets the needs of cancer patients
- Secure improvements to the welfare system for people with cancer who are unable to work because of their illness.

Free social care at the end of life

Currently, 73% of cancer patients want to die at home surrounded by their family yet only 27% are able to do so. Access to social care, as part of a package of palliative care, would enable more people to be cared for, remain in and die at home.

To improve access to this vital support, Macmillan wants the Government to implement the Independent Palliative Care Funding Review's recommendation that people in the last months of life, who are on an end of life care register, should receive free social care. Macmillan is continuing to push for 24/7 community nursing to be available in every part of the country. This is also critical to enabling people to be supported they need to die at home if they wish to do so.

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

- Ensure 24/7 community nursing is available in all parts of the country
- Support our call for all patients who are on an end of life care register to have access to free social care.

Ensuring high quality cancer services in the new NHS

The Government is currently making significant changes to the NHS in England. The focus of Macmillan's work will be on ensuring the quality of cancer services is maintained in the reformed NHS and that cancer networks are fully embedded into the new system.

We have been 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.

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

- Ensure the viability of cancer networks by officially establishing them as Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) and that their role in improving cancer services will be strengthened in the new NHS
- Improve the quality of cancer services in the new NHS by ensuring that the accountability frameworks of the NHS Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups:
 - Expand the existing indicators on cancer survival rates to cover all cancers
 - Include a new indicator based on cancer patient experience
 - Expand the existing emergency admissions indicator to include cancer.

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

The Welfare Reform Bill received Royal Assent on 8 March. Macmillan campaigned throughout the last 18 months to ensure that the benefits system continues to provide the right support to cancer patients.

The vast majority of people with cancer who are out of work because of their condition want to work. We are pleased therefore that the Government has committed to ensure that more cancer patients are given access to the Support Group and avoid a stressful and unnecessary medical assessment.

Macmillan is committed to working with the Government to ensure that:

- More cancer patients awaiting or undergoing treatment are placed in the Support Group of ESA and avoid stressful and unnecessary medical assessments
- Recovering cancer patients remain in the Support Group at the end of their treatment and for as long as, in the opinion of a healthcare professional, their illness prevents them from undertaking work-related activity.

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