

Financial support – help with costs

This information is about help with costs if you have cancer. This information covers:

- Help with transport costs
- Help with prescriptions and other health costs
- Support for parents
- Grants and loans

We hope this fact sheet answers your questions.

You can also call Macmillan Cancer Support on freephone **0808 808 00 00**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm. We have interpreters, so you can speak to us in your own language. When you call us, please tell us in English which language you need (say “xxxxx”).

There is more information in other languages at macmillan.org.uk/translations

Help with transport costs

- If you are on a low income, you may be able to get help with the cost of travelling to hospital for your treatment. You could get a refund on your bus, train or taxi fares. Or you could get money to help pay for petrol. People with cancer will get free parking at most hospitals. Speak to the staff at the hospital for more information.
- There are special rates for bus, coach and train tickets for some older people and people with disabilities. For more information visit gov.uk or indirect.gov.uk
- If you have problems moving around, you may be able to get a Blue Badge. This means you can park in parking spaces that are closer to where you need to go, such as hospitals or supermarkets. To find out more, visit gov.uk or indirect.gov.uk

Help with prescriptions and other health costs

- Prescriptions are free for people with cancer. You will need to fill in a form, which you can get from your GP surgery or hospital.
- In Wales and Northern Ireland, wigs and fabric supports are free for everyone. In England and Scotland, they are free for some people, including children under the age of 16 and people on a low income. Speak to your cancer nurse or doctor for more information.
- The NHS Low Income Scheme helps people on a low income to pay for health costs. This includes help with dental treatment, sight tests and travel to receive treatment. It is run by the NHS, or the Health Service in Northern Ireland.

Support for parents

- **Childcare vouchers** let you pay for childcare through your salary, before tax and National Insurance are taken out. This saves you money if you need to arrange childcare while you go to appointments or have treatment, or if you feel unwell. You might also be able to get help with childcare costs from a charity or your local council.
- If you have a child at school, they might be able to get free school meals. You might also be able to get help with paying for school clothing, and travel to and from school. Ask your local council for more information.

Grants and loans

- **Macmillan Grants** are small payments for people who need help with the extra costs that cancer can cause. This might be extra clothing or help to pay heating bills. They are for people who have a low level of income and savings. This means:
 - You have less than £6,000 in savings if you are single, or less than £8,000 as a couple or family.
 - You have a low total income after you have paid rent, mortgage and council tax. This means a weekly income of £170 for a single person, £289 for a couple or household of two people, £85 for each child, and £119 for each additional adult.
- You may also be able to get grants or loans from other sources. For example, charities or your local council might be able to help.

How Macmillan can help

Macmillan is here to help you and your family. You can get support from:

- The Macmillan Support Line. We have interpreters, so you can speak to us in your language. Just call **0808 808 00 00** from Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm.
- The Macmillan website. Visit **macmillan.org.uk** for lots of English information about cancer and living with cancer. There is more information in other languages at **macmillan.org.uk/translations**
- Information centres. At an information centre, you can talk to a cancer support specialist and get written information. Find your nearest centre at **macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres** or call us. Your hospital might have a centre.
- Local support groups. Find a group near you at **macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups** or call us.
- The Macmillan Online Community. You can talk to other people in similar situations at **macmillan.org.uk/community**

More information in [language]

We have information in [language] about these topics:

Types of cancer

- Breast cancer
- Large bowel cancer
- Lung cancer
- Prostate cancer

Treatments

- Chemotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Surgery

Coping with cancer

- If you're diagnosed with cancer – a quick guide
- Eating problems and cancer
- End of life
- Healthy eating
- Tiredness (fatigue) and cancer
- Side effects of cancer treatment
- What you can do to help yourself
- Money and cancer – Benefits

To see this information, go to [macmillan.org.uk/translations](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/translations)

Speak to us in [language]

You can call Macmillan free on **0808 808 00 00** and speak to us in your own language through an interpreter. You can talk to us about your worries and ask medical questions. Just tell us, in English, the language you want to use.

We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm.

References and thanks

This information has been written and edited by Macmillan Cancer Support's Cancer Information Development team.

This information is based on the Macmillan booklet *Help with the cost of cancer*. We can send you a copy, but the full booklet is only available in English.

This information has been reviewed by relevant experts and approved by Neal Southwick, Macmillan Financial Support Programme Lead.

With thanks to: Roy Beeson, Advice Service Manager, Disability Solutions West Midlands; Justine Burton, Macmillan Welfare Rights Team Technical Lead; Denise Forde, Macmillan Welfare Rights Adviser, Anthony Martin, Macmillan Benefit Service Partnerships Manager; Andrew Montgomery, Macmillan Benefit Service Partnerships Manager; and Tina Smith, Macmillan Welfare Benefits Manager, Neath Port Talbot Council.

Thanks also to the people affected by cancer who reviewed this edition.

All our information is based on the best evidence available. For more information about the sources we use, please contact us at bookletfeedback@macmillan.org.uk



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Next planned review: 2020

We make every effort to ensure that the information we provide is accurate but it should not be relied upon to reflect the current state of medical research, which is constantly changing. If you are concerned about your health, you should consult your doctor. Macmillan cannot accept liability for any loss or damage resulting from any inaccuracy in this information or third-party information such as information on websites to which we link.

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