

In partnership with

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

easy  
read

# Claiming benefits

when you have cancer







# About this easy read booklet



This booklet is about benefits.



You will learn what benefits are and the different types of benefits.



Macmillan has welfare rights advisers who can help you with benefits.

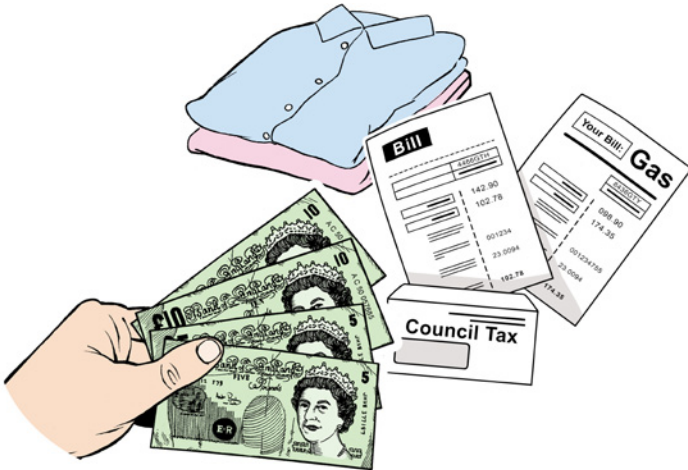
See page 6 for contact details.



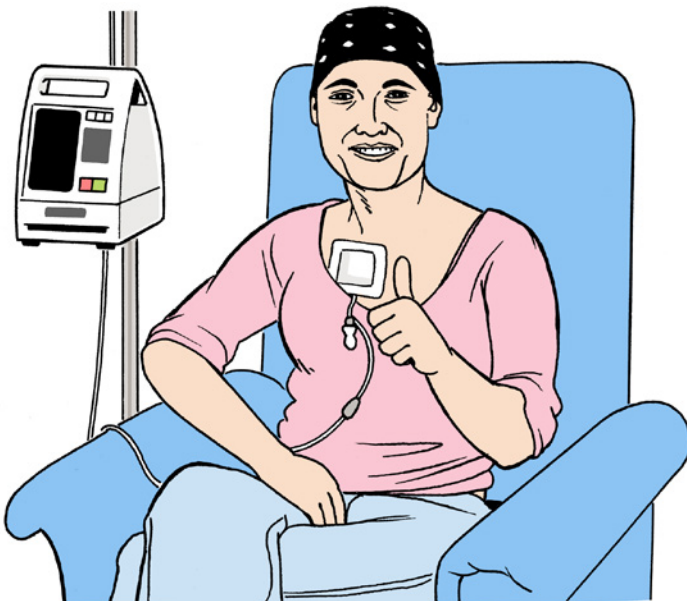
# What are benefits?



Benefits are a type of money paid by the government to some people.



This money is for people who need help with the cost of living.



If you have cancer, you might be able to get benefits because you are ill.





You might also be able to get benefits if:

- you have a disability



- you do not earn much money



- you are looking after someone.



There are lots of different benefits.

This book will explain some of them.



# If you were not born in the UK



You may not be able to get some benefits if:

- you have come from another country to live or work in the UK



- you are an asylum seeker.

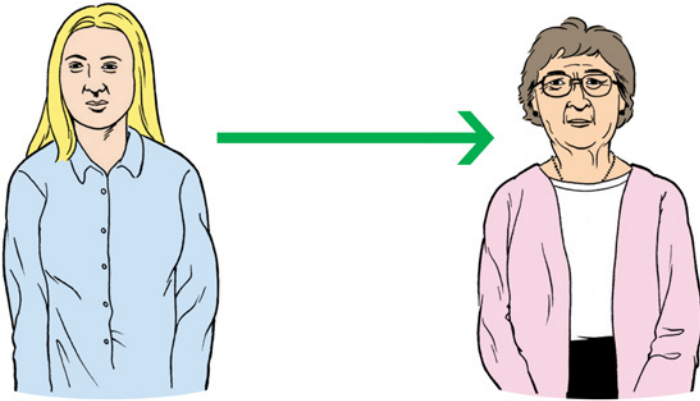


The rules can be hard to understand.

Call our welfare rights advisers on **0808 808 00 00** for advice.



# If you need help to care for yourself and move around



**Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** is for people aged 16 to 64.



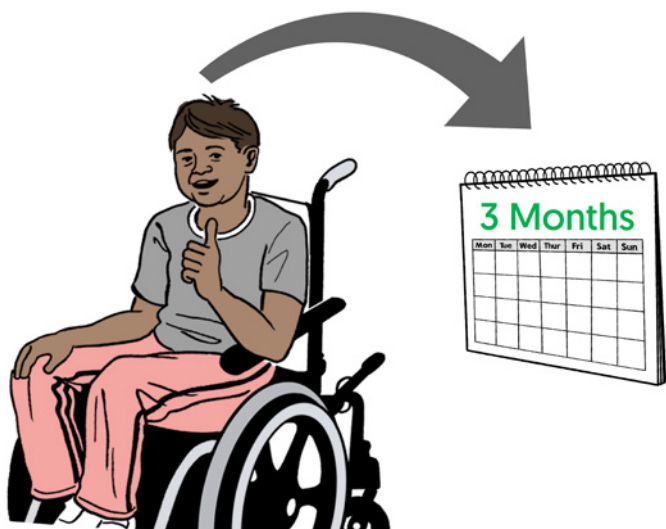
It is for people who need help to:

- move around

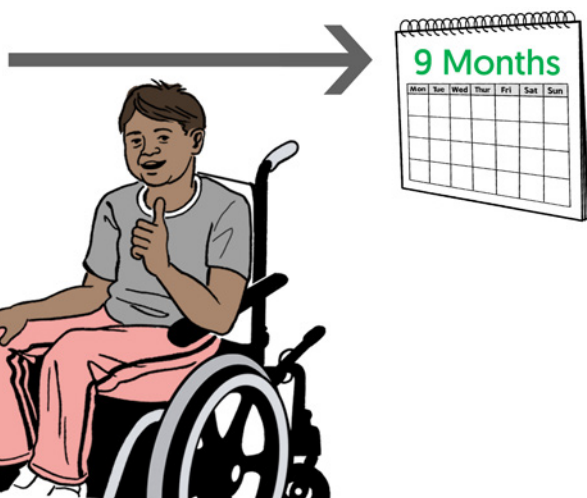


- look after themselves.





You must have needed help for 3 months to get PIP.



You must expect to need help for at least 9 more months.



**Attendance Allowance** is for people aged 65 or over.



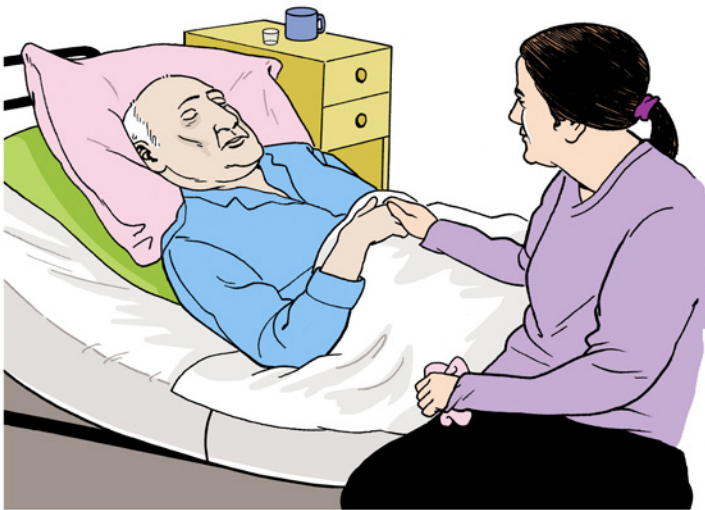
It is for people who :

- find it hard to look after themselves because they are ill





- have a disability.



You may be able to get benefits more quickly under special rules. You can get these if your doctor thinks you will only live for another 6 months or less.



Talk to your doctor or nurse for help with this.



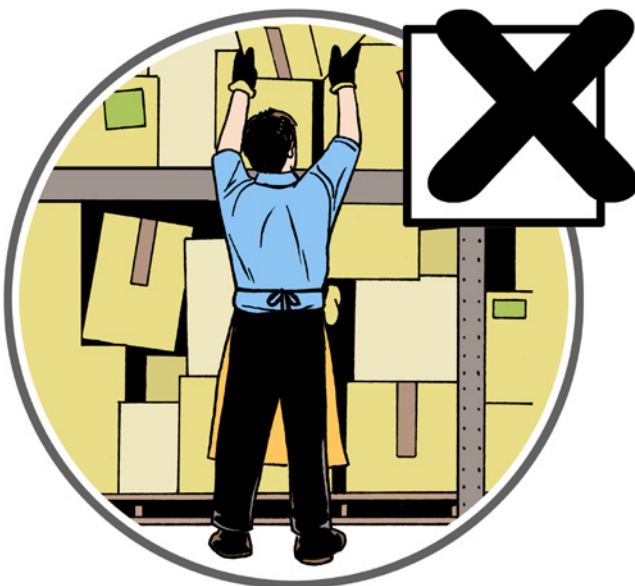
## If you cannot work or do not earn much money



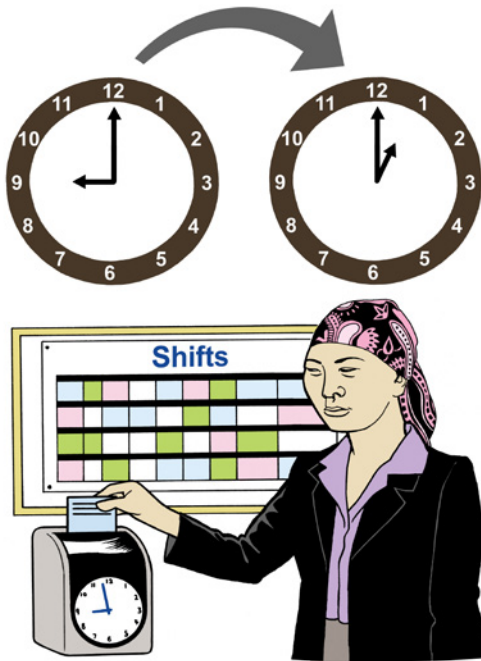
**Statutory sick pay** is for people who are ill and cannot work.



Your employer will pay this every week for up to 28 weeks of being ill.



**Employment and Support Allowance** is also for people who cannot work. They may be ill or disabled.



You may be able to get this if you can only do a small amount of work.



If you do not earn much money or cannot work, you may be able to get **Universal Credit**.



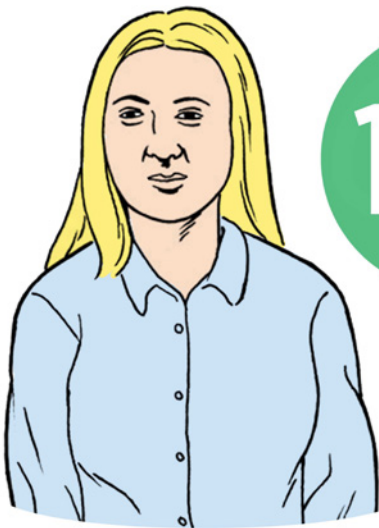
This is a new benefit. It replaces some older benefits. It is not available everywhere in the UK.



# If you look after someone with cancer



**Carer's Allowance** is for people who look after someone who needs lots of help.



16+

To get Carer's Allowance, you must:

- be 16 or over

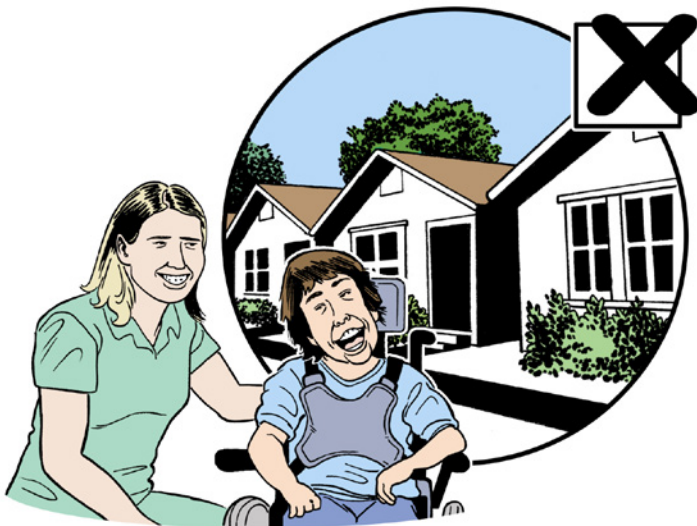


- care for the person for at least 35 hours each week.





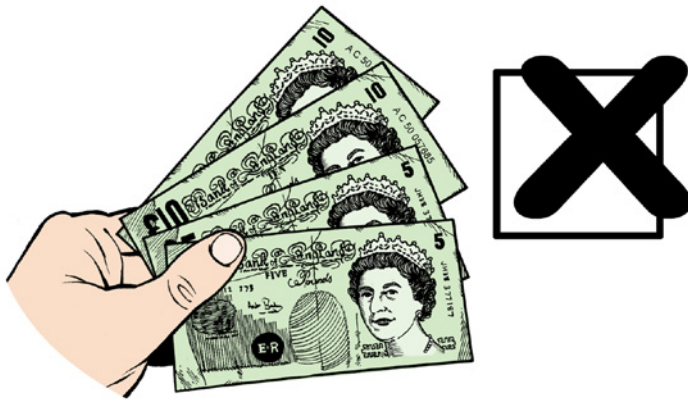
The person you look after does not have to be in your family.



You do not need to live with them.



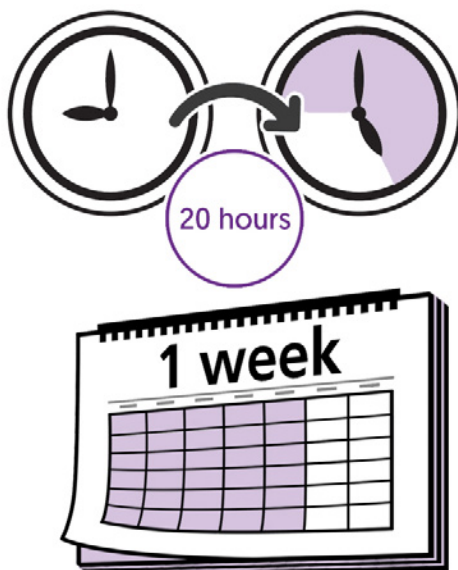
You can still do some paid work and get this benefit.



**Carer's Credit** does not give you any money. But it might help you in the future.



Carer's Credit helps make sure you can still get a pension when you are older.



You must look after someone for at least 20 hours a week to get Carer's Credit.



# If you need help with housing costs

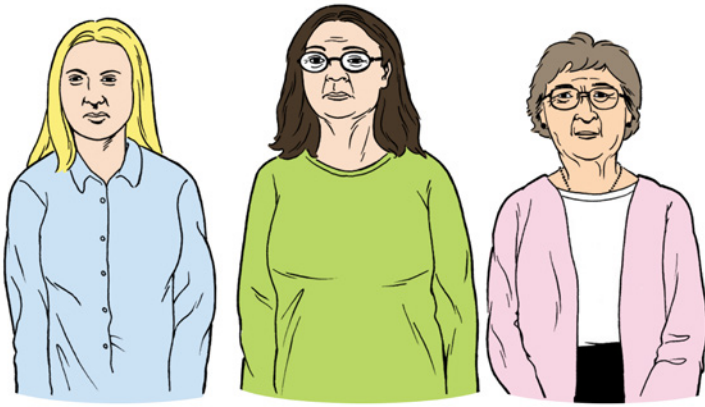


**Housing benefit** helps you to pay your rent.

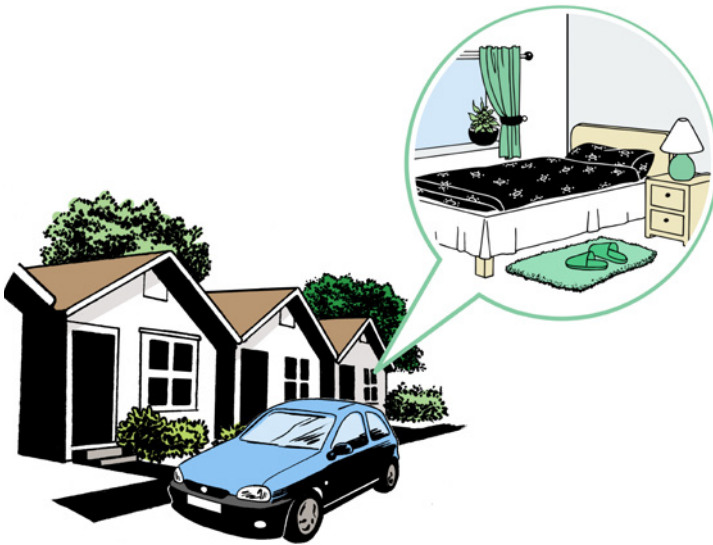


The amount you can get depends on:

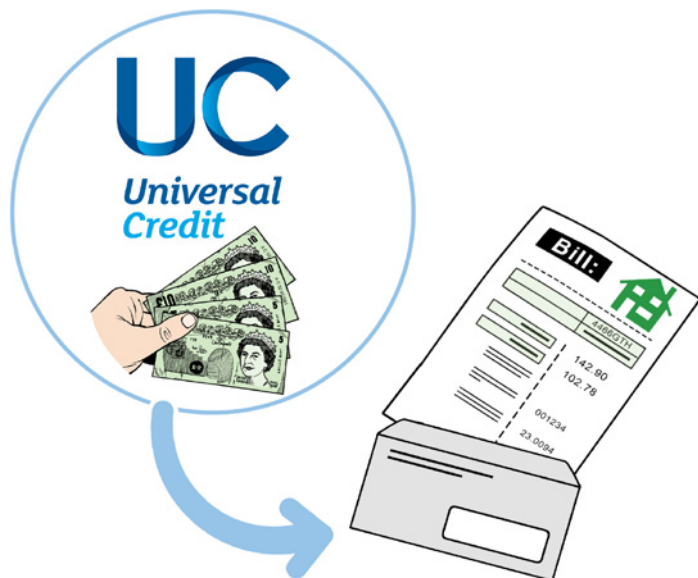
- where you live



- your age



- the number of bedrooms your house has.



**Universal Credit** can also help to pay your rent.





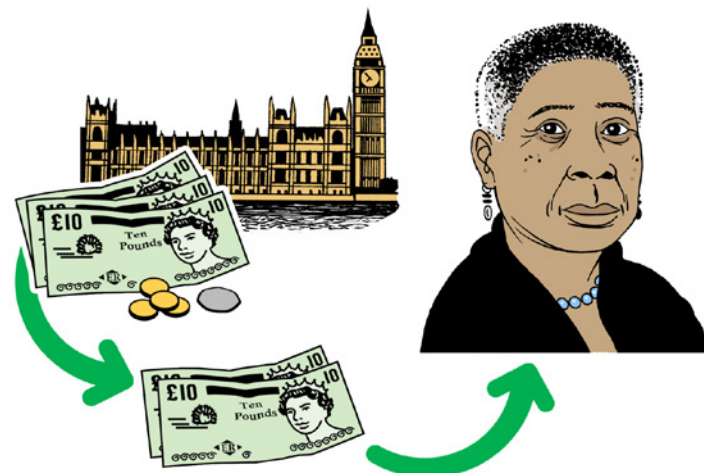
# If you are of pension age



**State Pension** is money some people get every week from the government.



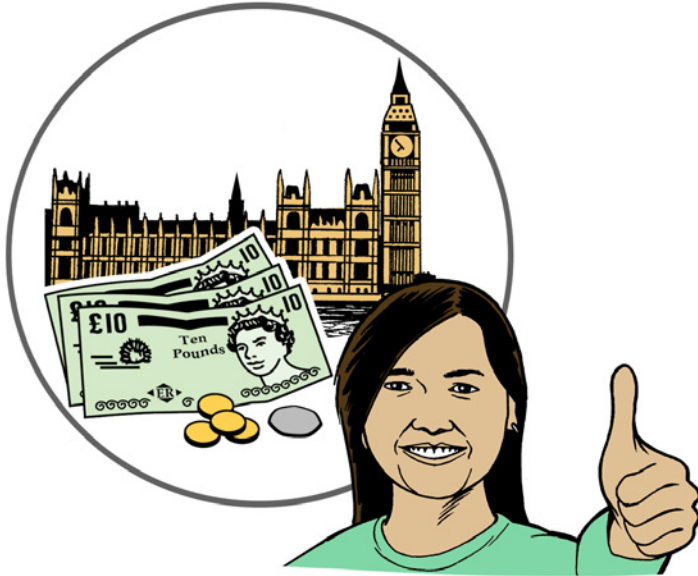
You can get a state pension when you reach a certain age. You can find out your pension age at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)



**Pension credit** gives you extra money on top of your pension. It helps people who do not have much money.



# What to do next



You might be able to get other help with money.



You could talk to one of Macmillan's welfare rights advisers to find out more.

Call us free on **0808 808 00 00**.



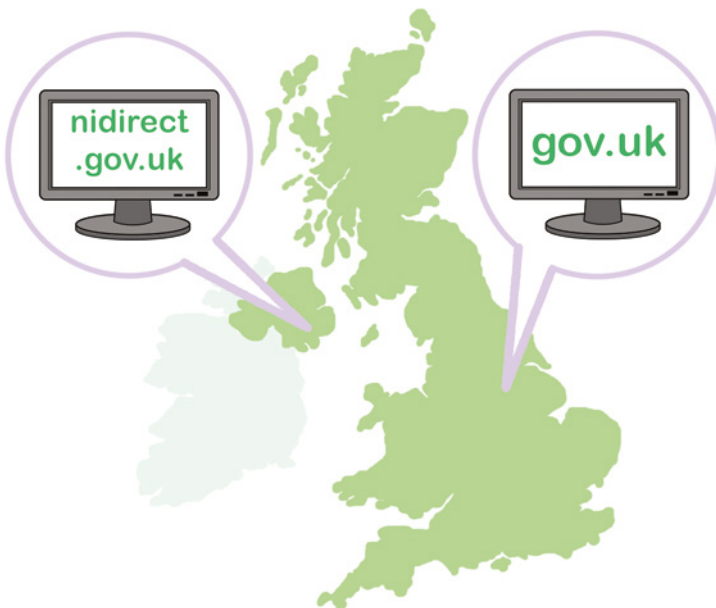
We can tell you more about any help with money you may be able to get.



We can also help you apply for benefits.



You can find out more and apply for benefits online.



Visit:

- [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) if you live in England, Scotland or Wales
- [nidirect.gov.uk](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk) if you live in Northern Ireland.



# How Macmillan can help you



Macmillan is here to help you and your family.



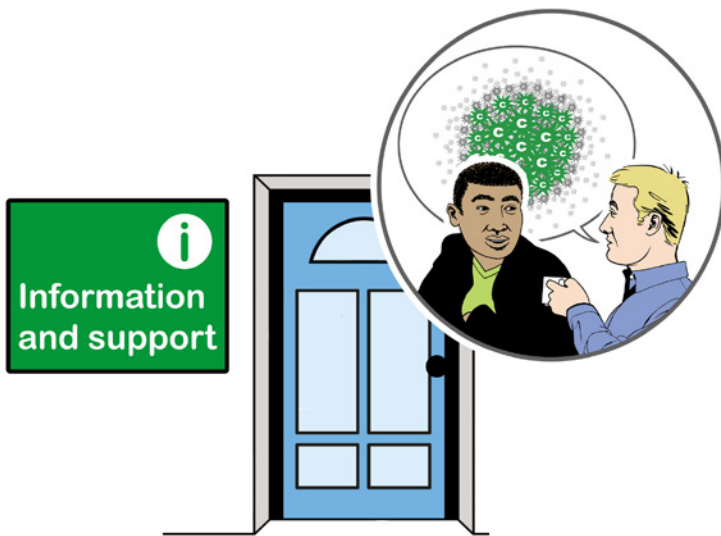
You can get support from:

- The Macmillan Support Line. Call **0808 808 00 00** from Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm. If you need advice about benefits, ask to speak to one of our welfare rights advisers.



- The Macmillan website. Visit [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk) for lots of information about cancer and living with cancer.





- 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](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres) or call us. Your hospital might have a centre.



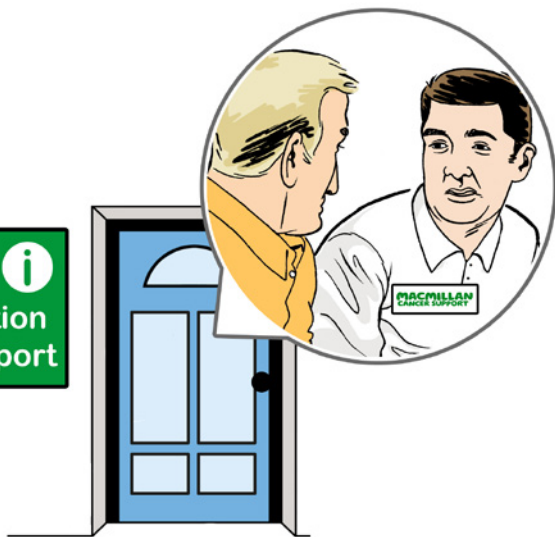
- Local support groups. Find a group near you at [macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups) or call us.



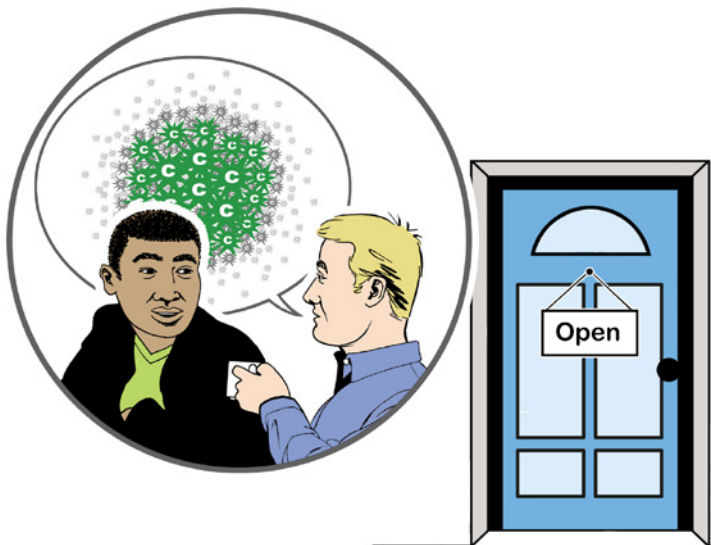
- The Macmillan Online Community. You can talk to other people in similar situations at [macmillan.org.uk/community](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/community)



# Cancer information and support services



At an information and support service, you can talk to someone who is trained to help people with cancer.



You do not need to book to see someone. You can visit whenever the service is open.



These services are in hospitals and local places like libraries. You can find one near you at [macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres)



# Online support



If you use the internet you can visit the Macmillan support group at

[macmillan.org.uk/community](http://macmillan.org.uk/community)



You can tell people what it has been like for you to have cancer.

You can also read what other people say about cancer.



# More easy read booklets



Order more easy read booklets from [macmillan.org.uk/easyread](http://macmillan.org.uk/easyread)

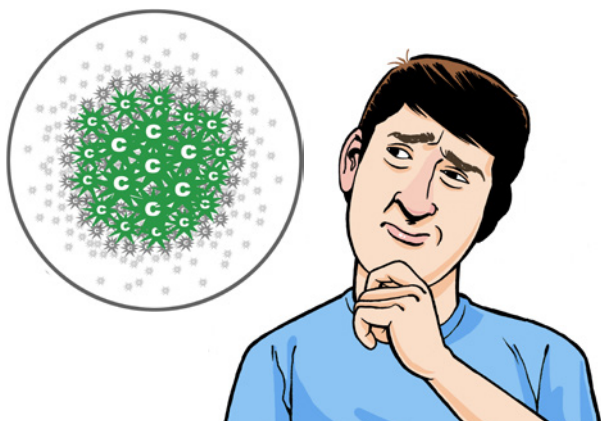
There are booklets on lots of topics:

## About Macmillan

- How Macmillan Cancer Support can help you

## About cancer and symptoms

- Breast care for women
- Cervical screening
- How to check your balls [testicles]
- Screening for cancer
- Signs of cancer
- Symptoms of cervical cancer
- Symptoms of prostate cancer
- What is cancer?







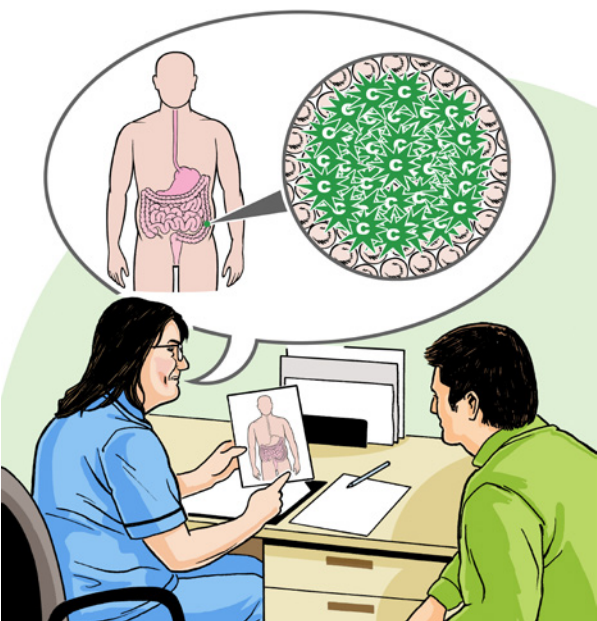
## Living a healthy life

- Be safe in the sun
- Drink less alcohol
- Eat a healthy diet
- Exercise
- Have safe sex
- Stop smoking



## Tests for cancer

- Having a biopsy
- Having a colonoscopy
- Having a CT scan
- Having an endoscopy
- Having examinations and blood tests
- Having an MRI scan
- Having an ultrasound
- Scans and x-rays



## Being told you have cancer

- Finding out you have cancer
- Getting your test results
- People who can help you when you have cancer
- Seeing the doctor



## Treatment for cancer

- Chemotherapy
- Giving your consent
- Having surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Side effects from chemotherapy
- Side effects from radiotherapy
- Starting treatment for cancer



## Living with cancer

- 7 steps to equal healthcare  
[produced with Enable Scotland]
- After treatment for cancer
- Complementary therapies
- Help with costs when you have cancer
- Talking about cancer
- Things that are important to me  
[produced with Enable Scotland]
- Work and cancer
- Your feelings and cancer
- Your sex life and cancer
- Your social life and cancer



## End of life

- Changes that can happen at the end of life
- Choosing where to die
- Getting ready to die
- If you are dying from cancer
- Making decisions about the future if you are dying
- Spirituality and religion at the end of life
- The end of life
- Thinking about your funeral
- Who can help if you are dying



## After someone dies

- Going to a funeral when someone dies
- Grief and loss when someone dies
- How you may feel when someone dies
- What can help you feel better when someone dies

To order easy read booklets like this one go to the website  
**[macmillan.org.uk/easyread](http://macmillan.org.uk/easyread)** or call us on **0808 808 00 00**



# More information and resources



## Macmillan website

There is lots of information about cancer at [macmillan.org.uk](https://www.macmillan.org.uk)



## Booklets about cancer

You can order booklets about cancer from [be.macmillan.org.uk](https://be.macmillan.org.uk)



## Videos

You can watch videos about cancer at [macmillan.org.uk/videos](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/videos)





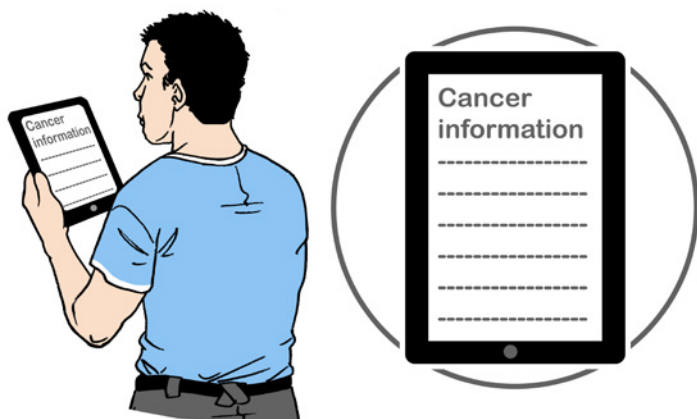
## Audio

You can listen to information about cancer and order CDs from [macmillan.org.uk/audio](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/audio)



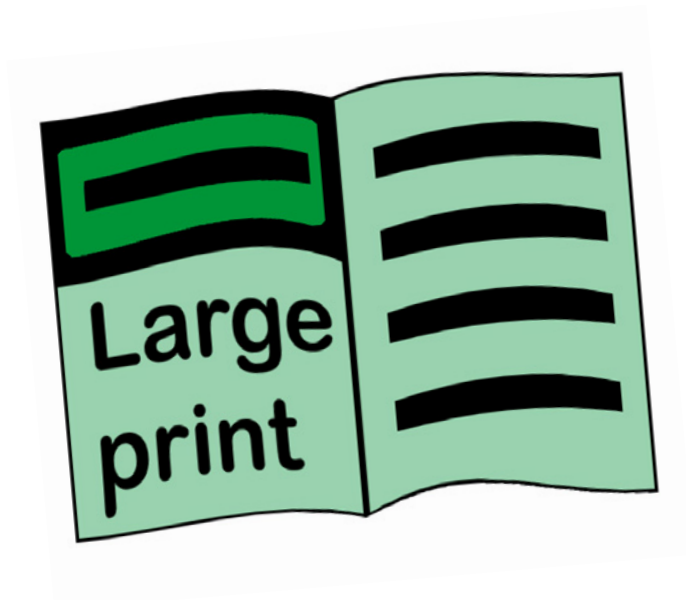
## British Sign Language (BSL)

You can watch information in BSL at [macmillan.org.uk/bsl](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/bsl)



## eBooks

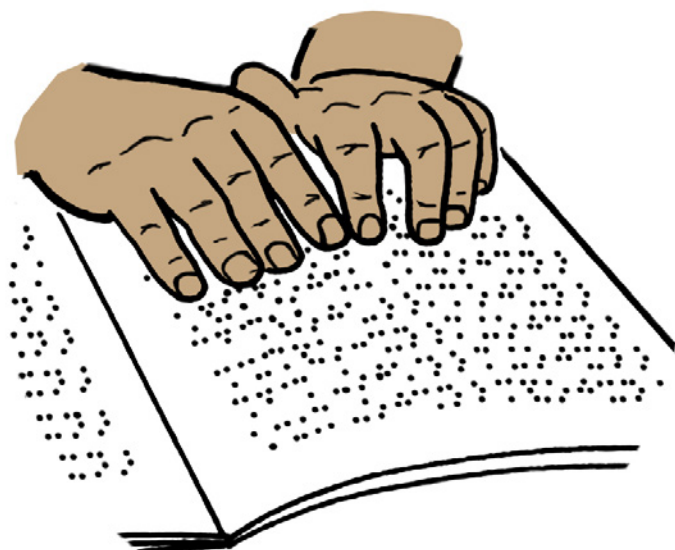
You can get eBooks about cancer from [be.macmillan.org.uk](https://be.macmillan.org.uk)



## Large print

Tell us if you need information in large print.

Email: [cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk)



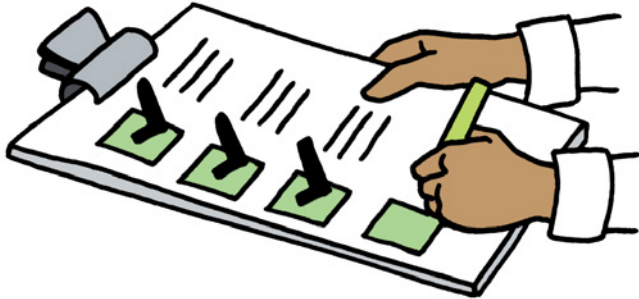
## Braille

Tell us if you need information in Braille.

Email: [cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk)



# What do you think about this book?



We have some questions to ask you. You can answer them at:

[bit.ly/macmillan-survey](https://bit.ly/macmillan-survey)



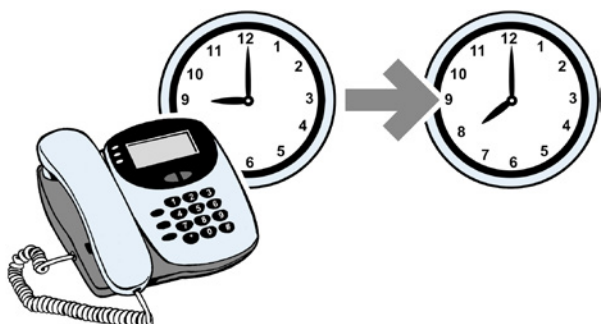
Or you can tell us what you think by emailing

[cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk)



or by calling **0808 808 00 00**.

This booklet is about claiming benefits when you have cancer.  
It is for anyone who has a learning disability or who finds easier words and pictures helpful. If you have more questions about cancer or would like to talk to us, call the Macmillan Support Line.



- Call us free on:  
**0808 808 00 00**  
Monday to Friday  
from 9am to 8pm.



- If you use a textphone, you can call the Macmillan Support Line using the Next Generation Text (NGT) service by dialling  
**18001 0808 808 00 00**



- Or go to the website  
[\*\*macmillan.org.uk\*\*](https://www.macmillan.org.uk)

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