

Transport and parking

A cancer diagnosis can change your financial situation. You may need to stop working or reduce the hours you work. You may also have to spend more money on transport and parking because of medical appointments.

Travelling to and from hospital can be expensive, especially if you are having regular treatment. The costs can add up, but you may be able to get help.

Tips for managing transport and parking costs

- The Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme gives travel refunds. You may be able to get a refund if you are on a low income and travel to and from hospital for treatment. The scheme covers public transport fares and petrol costs and may cover taxi fares. Take your travel receipts, appointment letter and proof that you get benefits or are on a low income to the hospital cashier's office.
- The hospital may give people with cancer free car parking or discounts. From April 2020, hospital parking is free in England if you have a Blue Badge. Parking is also free in England if you attend regular appointments to manage a long-term condition.
- In Scotland, parking is free at all hospitals except Glasgow Royal Infirmary, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.
- In Wales, parking is free at all hospitals.
- In Northern Ireland, hospital parking is free if you are having chemotherapy or radiotherapy.
- Ask your local council or transport provider about travel discounts. There are special rates for bus, coach and train travel for eligible older people and people with disabilities. Reduced taxi fare schemes are available in some areas, including London.
- If you have problems using public transport, find out what voluntary or community transport services are available in your area. You can check at your local council or library, or on the Community Transport Association website. The British Red Cross provides personal transport services in some places.
- If you have problems with moving around, you may be able to get a Blue Badge. This lets you park in parking spaces closer to where you need to go. You can get discounts on the London Congestion Charge and some tunnel, bridge and road charges.
- If you get certain disability benefits, you may qualify for free or reduced road (vehicle) tax. Ask the DVLA vehicle tax service or your local Post Office for more information.
- You may get a higher rate mobility allowance as part of your benefits. The Motability Scheme allows you to exchange this to hire a new car, scooter or powered wheelchair. Contact them for more information.
- Make sure you travel safely. If you cannot wear a seat belt for medical reasons, you can get a medical exemption certificate from your doctor. There are aids and adaptations that can make it easier to wear a seat belt.

Local resources:

Resource	Contact details

National resources:

Resource	Contact details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Red Cross Community Transport Association DVLA vehicle tax service Motability Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.redcross.org.uk Tel 0344 8711 111 Textphone 020 7562 2050 Email contactus@redcross.org.uk www.ctauk.org Tel 0300 123 4321 (24 hours a day) www.motability.co.uk Tel 0300 456 4566 (Mon to Fri, 8am to 7pm, Sat, 9am to 1pm) Textphone 0300 037 0100

Further information

[macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/organising/benefits-and-financial-support/help-with-transport-and-parking](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/organising/benefits-and-financial-support/help-with-transport-and-parking)
[macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/organising/travel-and-holidays](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/organising/travel-and-holidays)

Our booklets and leaflets are available to order free on **be.macmillan.org.uk**

- **Help with the cost of cancer**
- **Travel and cancer**

More information and support

If you have more questions or would like to talk to someone, call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00**, 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm, or visit **macmillan.org.uk**

Deaf or hard of hearing? Call using NGT (Text Relay) on **18001 0808 808 00 00**, or use the NGT Lite app. Speak another language? Telephone interpreters are available. Please tell us in English the language you would like to use.

We produce information in a range of formats and languages. To order these, visit **macmillan.org.uk/otherformats** or call our support line.