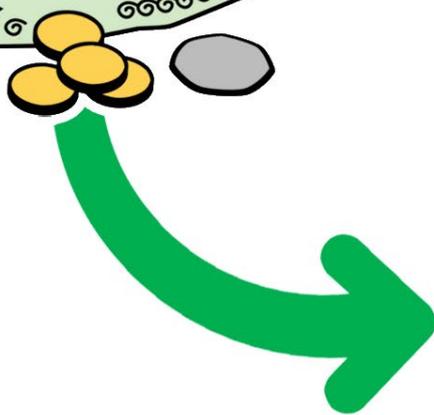


In partnership with

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

easy  
read

# Claiming benefits when you have cancer





# About this easy read booklet



This booklet is about claiming benefits when you have cancer.



You can learn about what benefits are and the different types of benefits.



Macmillan has welfare rights advisers who can help you find out if you can get any benefits. See page 6 for contact details.



# What are benefits?



Some people may be able to get extra money from the government. This is called **benefits**.



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.



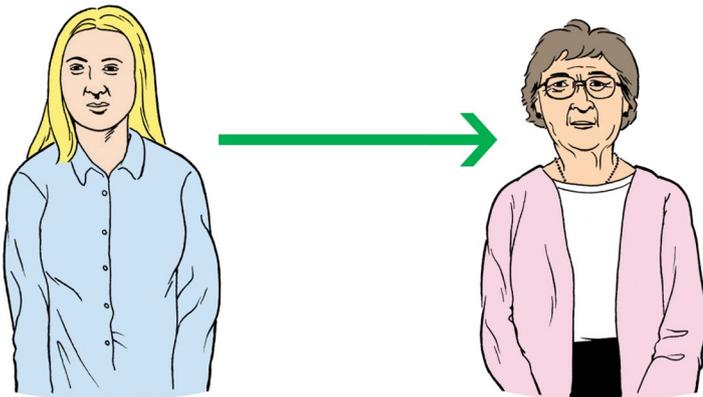


The rules can be hard to understand.

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.

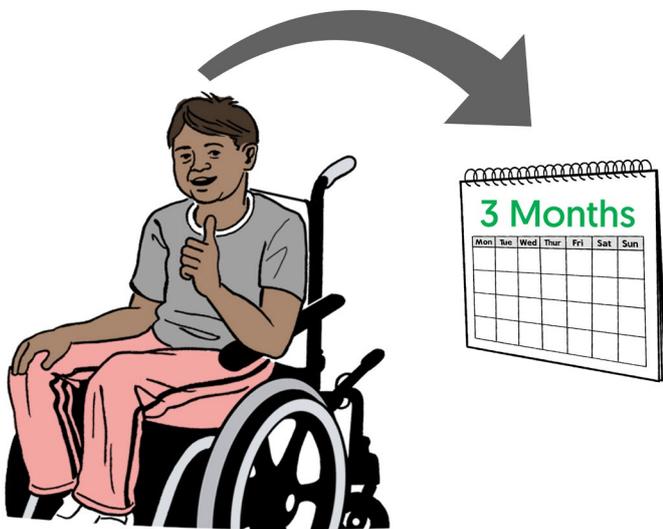


It is for people who need help to:

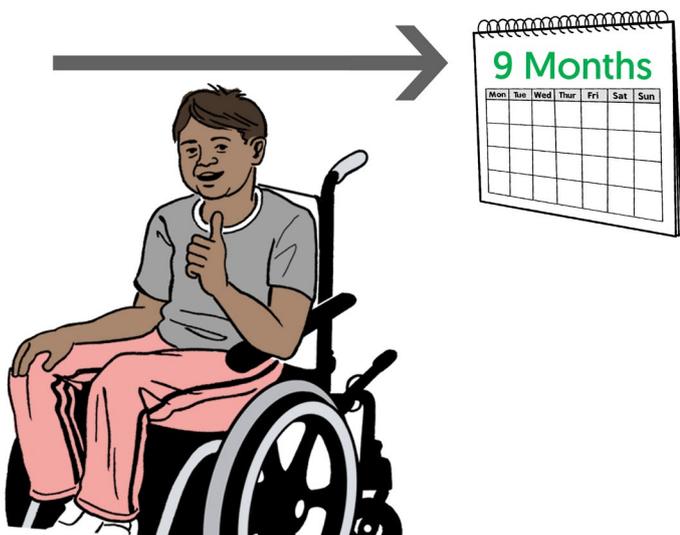
- move around



- 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.

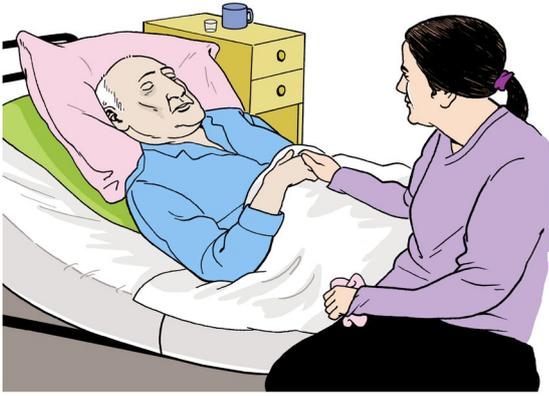


It is for people who :

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



- have a disability.



You may be able to get benefits more quickly if your doctor thinks you may only live for another 6 months or less. These are called **special rules**.



Talk to your doctor or nurse for help with this.



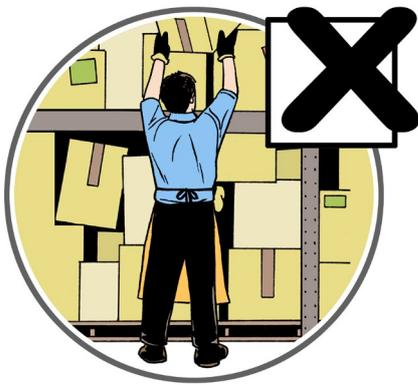
## If you cannot work or do not earn much money



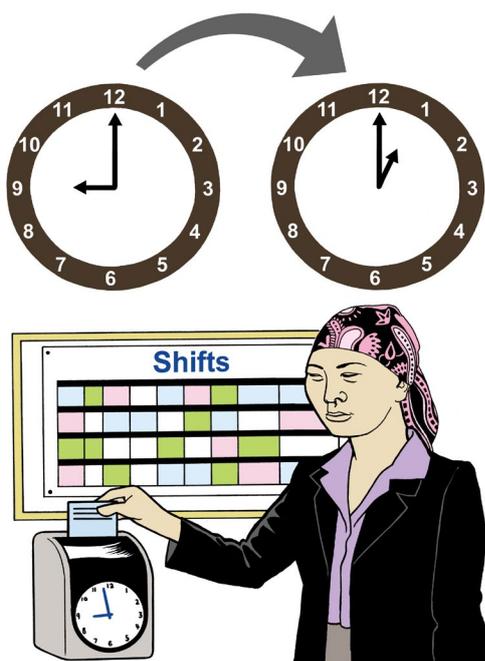
**Statutory sick pay** is for people who are ill and cannot work.



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**.



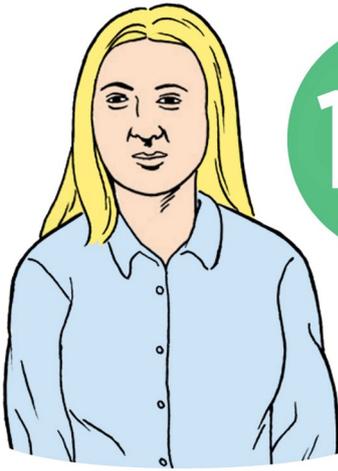
Universal Credit can include money for basic living costs, looking after children and housing.



## If you look after someone with cancer



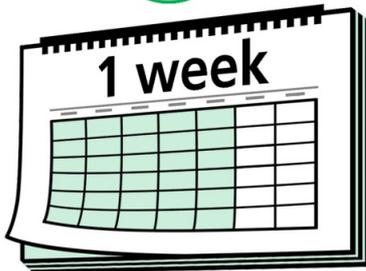
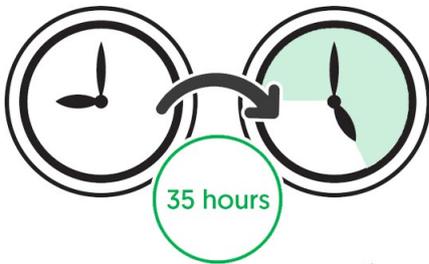
**Carer's Allowance** is for people who look after someone who needs lots of help.



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.



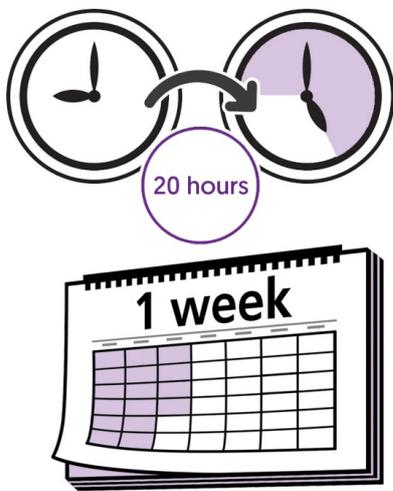
You can still do some paid work and get this benefit.



**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.

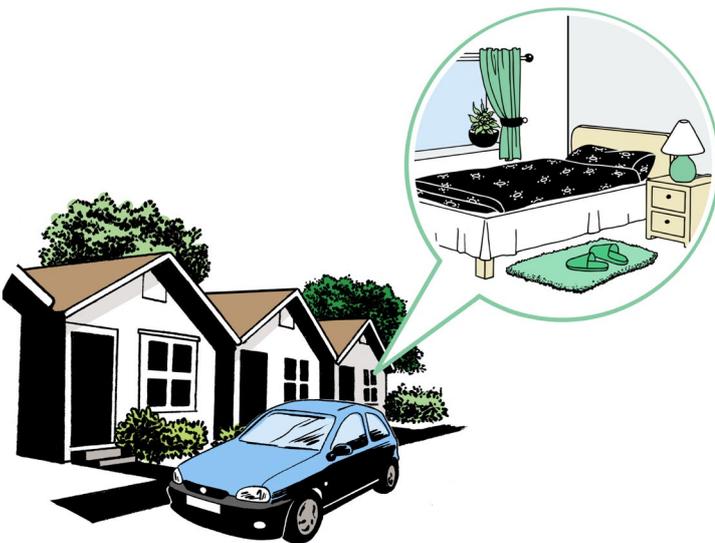


The amount you can get depends on:

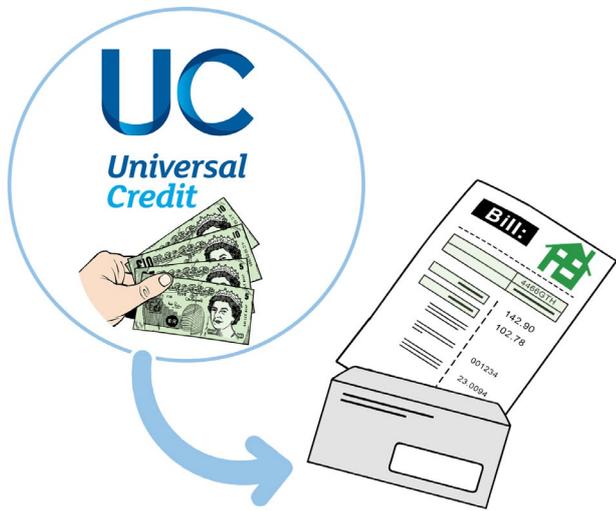
- where you live



- your age



- the number of bedrooms your house has.



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



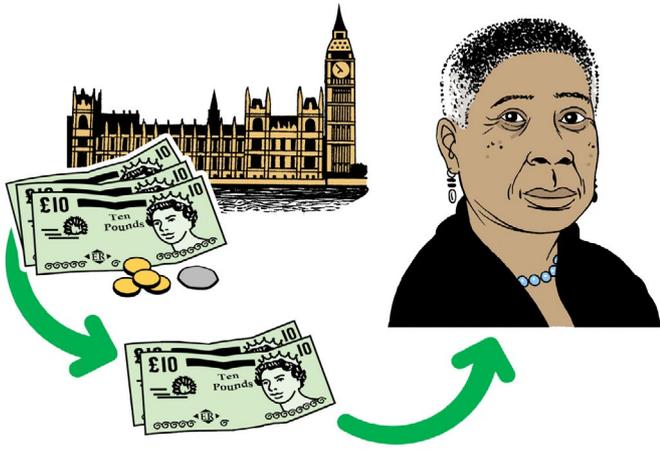
## If you are of pension age



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



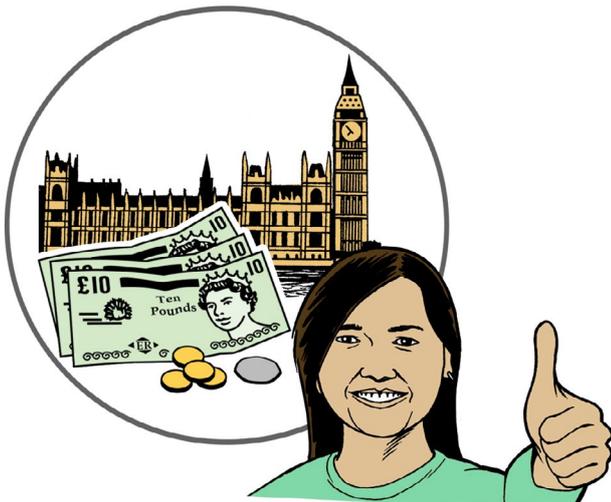
You can get a state pension when you reach a certain age. You can find out your pension age at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)



**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 how you may be able to get help with extra money.



We can also help you apply for benefits.

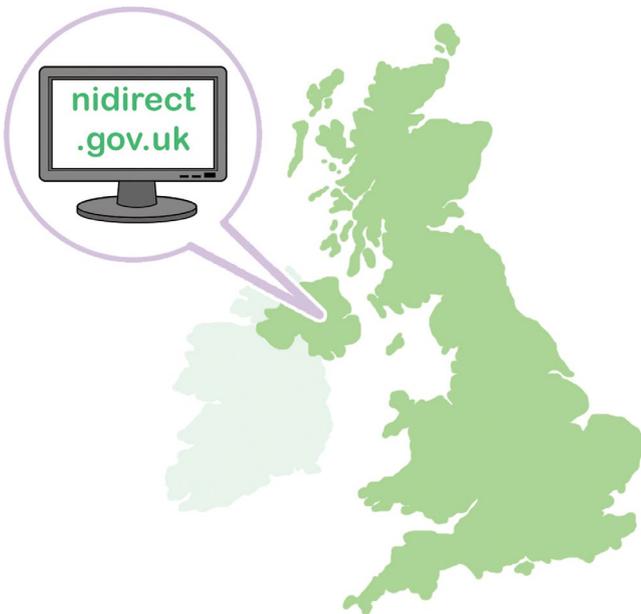


You can find out more and apply for benefits online.



Visit:

- **gov.uk** if you live in England, Scotland or Wales



- **nidirect.gov.uk** if you live in Northern Ireland.



# How Macmillan can help you

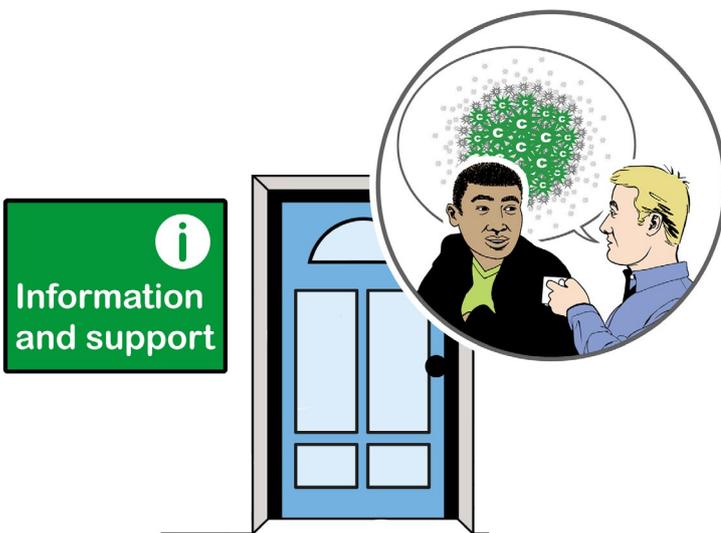


You can get support from:

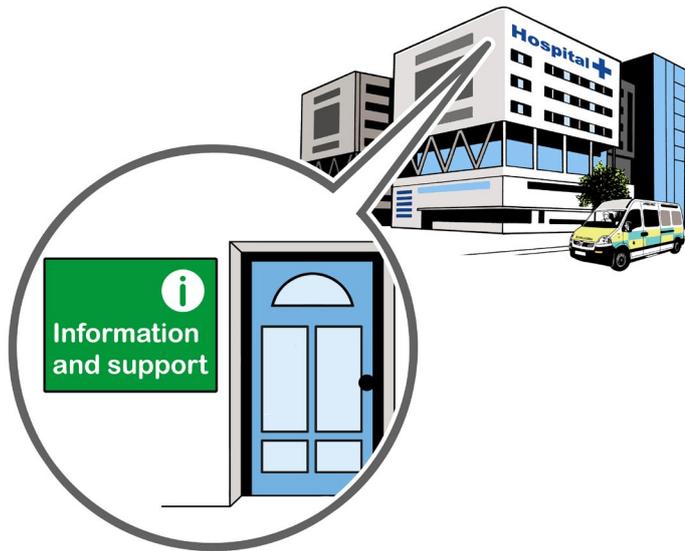
- The Macmillan Support Line. Call **0808 808 00 00** 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm.



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



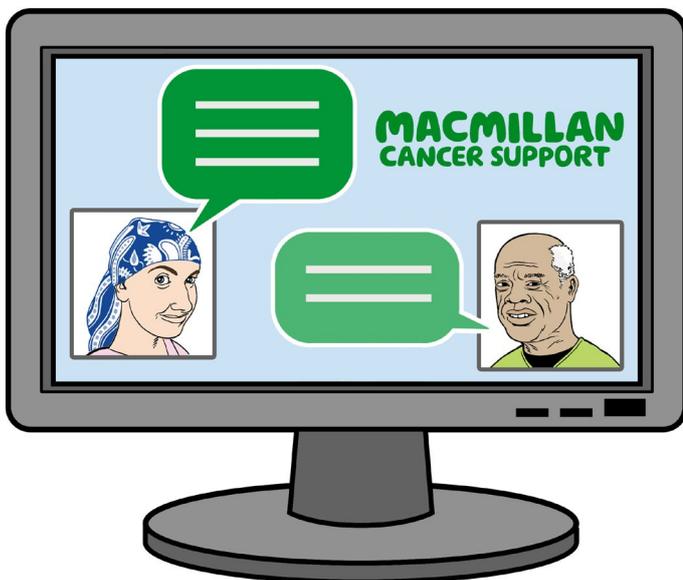
- Information centres. At an information centre, you can talk to a cancer support specialist and get written information.



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)



# More easy read booklets



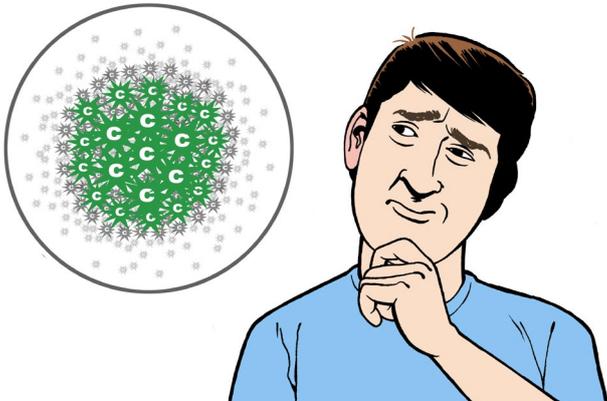
Order more easy read booklets from [macmillan.org.uk/easyread](http://macmillan.org.uk/easyread)

There are booklets on lots of topics:



## About Macmillan

- How Macmillan Cancer Support can help you



## About cancer

- Lung cancer
- What is cancer?



## Signs 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



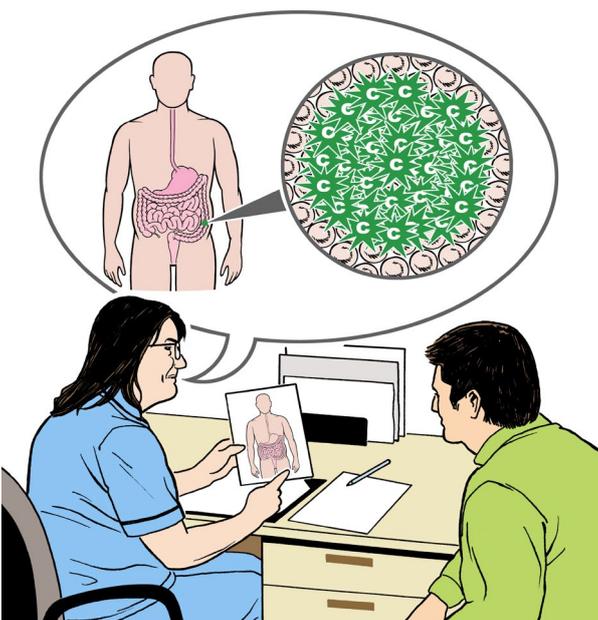
## Living a healthy life

- 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
- Having an x-ray



## Being told you have cancer

- Finding out you have cancer
- Getting your test results
- Seeing the doctor



## Treatment for cancer

- Chemotherapy
- Giving your consent
- Having surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Side effects from chemotherapy
- Side effects from radiotherapy
- Treatments for prostate cancer

## Living with cancer

- 7 steps to equal healthcare
- After treatment for cancer
- Cancer and Coronavirus
- Claiming benefits when you have cancer
- Complementary therapies
- Help with costs when you have cancer
- Talking about cancer and your feelings
- Things that are important to me
- 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**

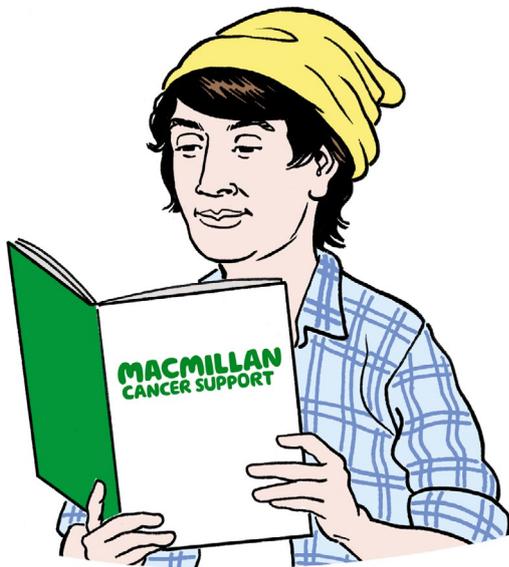


# More information and resources



## Macmillan website

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



## Booklets about cancer

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



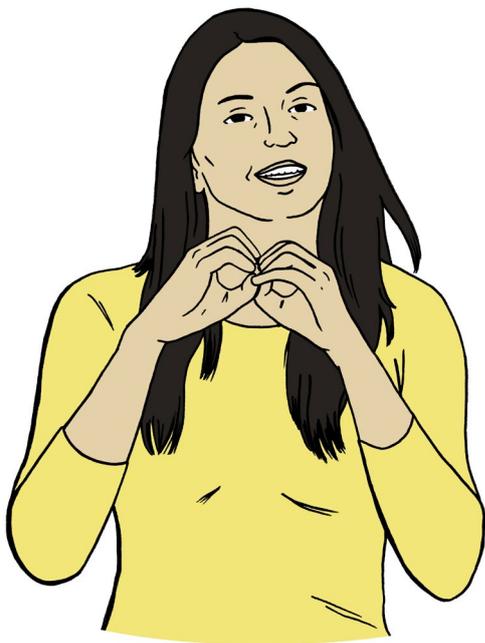
## Videos

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



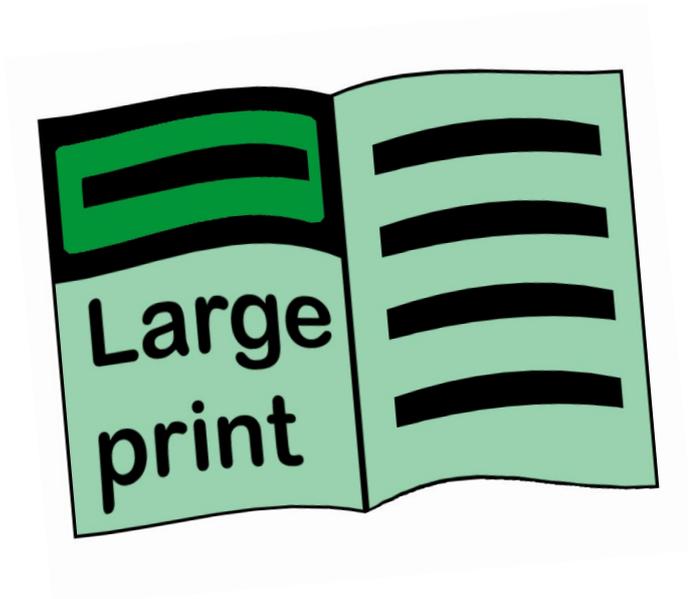
### British Sign Language (BSL)

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



### eBooks

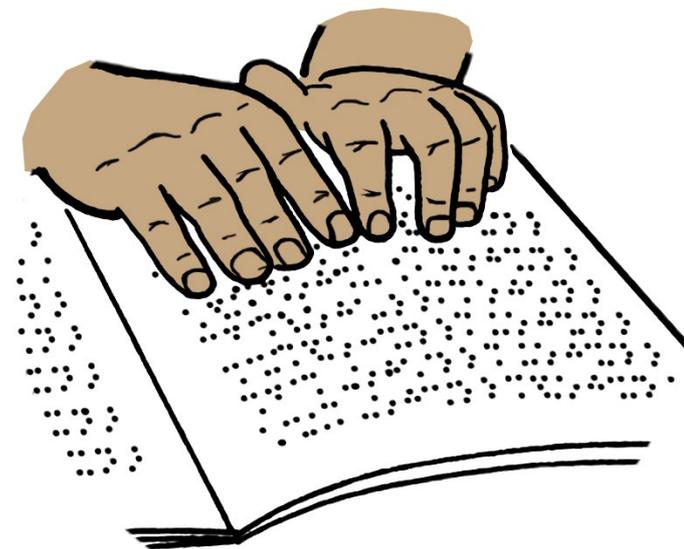
You can get eBooks about cancer from [be.macmillan.org.uk](https://www.be.macmillan.org.uk)



## Large print

Tell us if you need information in large print.

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



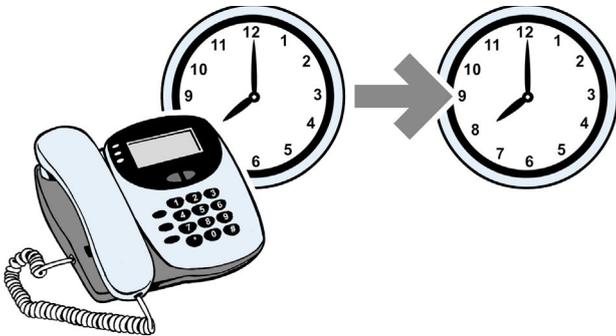
## Braille

Tell us if you need information in Braille.

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

This booklet is about 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**  
7 days a week from 8am 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](http://macmillan.org.uk)**

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**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**