

Help with costs when you have cancer

This information is about help with costs if you have cancer. If you have any questions about this information, you can call Macmillan Cancer Support on **0808 808 00 00**, 7 days a week, 8am 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.

There is more cancer information in other languages at [macmillan.org.uk/translations](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/translations)

This information is about:

- Help with transport costs
- Help with prescriptions and other health costs
- Support for parents
- Grants and loans
- How Macmillan can help you
- More information in your language
- References and thanks

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 with some of your petrol costs. People with cancer get free or discounted parking at many UK 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](https://www.gov.uk) or [nidirect.gov.uk](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

If you have problems moving around, you may be able to get a Blue Badge. This allows you to 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](https://www.gov.uk) or [nidirect.gov.uk](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

Help with prescriptions and other health costs

- **Prescriptions** - In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, prescriptions are free for everyone. In England, prescriptions are free for anything related to cancer or its effects. You will need to fill in a form, which you can get from your GP surgery, pharmacy or some hospitals.
- **Wigs and fabric supports** - In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, wigs and fabric supports are free on the NHS. In England, 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

You might be able to get some help from the government towards childcare costs. This might include some free childcare, or some money to help pay for childcare. You can find out about the different types of support available at [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

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. If you have a low income, 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, one-off 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. Macmillan Grants are for people who have a low level of income and savings. All of the following must apply:

- You have no more than £1,000 in savings for your household.
- You have a weekly income of no more than £323 per week for a household of 1 person or no more than £442 per week for a household of 2 or more people.
- You have not already had a Macmillan Grant in the last 2 years.

You may also be able to get grants or loans from other organisations. For example, charities or your local council might be able to help.

Getting the right care and support for you

If you have cancer and do not speak English, you may be worried that this will affect your cancer treatment and care. But your healthcare team should offer you care, support and information that meets your needs.

We know that sometimes people may face extra challenges in getting the right support. For example, if you work or have a family it can be hard to find time to go to hospital appointments. You might also have worries about money and transport costs. All of this can be stressful and hard to cope with.

We also offer Macmillan Grants to people with cancer. These are one-off payments that can be used for things like hospital parking, travel costs, childcare or heating bills.

Our free support line **0808 808 00 00** can offer advice, in your language, about your situation. You can speak to nurses, financial guides, welfare rights advisers and work support advisers.

How Macmillan can help you

At Macmillan, we know how a cancer diagnosis can affect everything, and we are here to support you.

Macmillan Support Line

We have interpreters, so you can speak to us in your language. Just tell us, in English, the language you want to use. We can help with medical questions, give you information about financial support, or be there to listen if you need someone to talk to. The free, confidential phone line is open 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm. Call us on **0808 808 00 00**.

Macmillan website

Our website has lots of information in English about cancer. There is also more information in other languages at [macmillan.org.uk/translations](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/translations)

We can also arrange translations just for you. Email us at cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk to tell us what you need.

Information centres

Our information and support centres are based in hospitals, libraries and community centres. Visit one to get the information you need and speak with someone face to face. Find your nearest centre at [macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres) or call us on **0808 808 00 00**.

Local support groups

At a support group, you can talk to other people affected by cancer. Find out about support groups in your area at [macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups) or call us on **0808 808 00 00**.

Macmillan Online Community

You can also talk to other people affected by cancer online at [macmillan.org.uk/community](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/community) You can access it at any time of day or night. You can share your experiences, ask questions, or just read through people's posts.

More information in your language

We have information in your language about these topics:

- Coping with cancer
- Cancer and coronavirus
- Cancer care in the UK
- Claiming benefits when you have cancer
- Eating problems and cancer
- End of life
- Healthcare for refugees and people seeking asylum
- Healthy eating
- Help with costs when you have cancer
- If you are diagnosed with cancer
- LGBTQ+ people and cancer
- Sepsis and cancer
- Side effects of cancer treatment
- Tiredness (fatigue) and cancer
- **Types of cancer**
- Breast cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Large bowel cancer
- Lung cancer
- Prostate cancer
- **Treatments**
- Chemotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Surgery

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

References and thanks

This information has been written and edited by Macmillan Cancer Support's Cancer Information Development team. Macmillan Cancer Support has paid for this information to be translated into your language by a translation company.

The information included is based on the Macmillan booklet Help with the cost of cancer.

This information has been reviewed by relevant experts and approved by Macmillan's Welfare Rights team.

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

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

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Patient Information Forum