

# 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. 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 the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.
- 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. For more information, speak to your doctor or contact [Living Made Easy](#).

## Macmillan Cancer Support resources

We have more information on our [website](#), including audiobooks. Or you can order our free booklets and leaflets on [be.macmillan.org.uk](http://be.macmillan.org.uk) such as:

- [Help with the cost of cancer](#)
- [Travel and cancer](#)

We produce information in a [range of formats](#) and [languages](#). To order these, visit our website or call our support line.

## Further Macmillan 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](http://macmillan.org.uk) where you can [chat to us online](#).

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.

Or if you want to share your experiences or ask questions, you can find others who understand on our [Online Community](#).

## Other useful contact details

- British Red Cross – visit [redcross.org.uk](http://redcross.org.uk) or call **0808 196 3651**
- Community Transport Association – visit [ctauk.org](http://ctauk.org) or call **0161 351 1475**
- DVLA tax service – visit [gov.uk/vehicle-tax](http://gov.uk/vehicle-tax)
- Living Made Easy – visit [livingmadeeasy.org.uk](http://livingmadeeasy.org.uk) or call **0300 999 0004**
- Motability Scheme – visit [motability.co.uk](http://motability.co.uk) or call **0300 456 4566**

## Notes and questions

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