




# TEN WAYS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH MONEY WORRIES


A cancer diagnosis is difficult enough, but for many people it also leads to severe financial hardship. From paying for travel to and from hospital appointments to covering rising household bills or managing a reduced income, costs can really stack up. Shockingly, Macmillan estimates that four out of five people with cancer are, on average, £570 a month worse off.

Here's what you can do to help ease money worries for people with cancer


 **1 Ask introductory questions**  
Ask how they will cope at home and at work. By identifying issues with money or income early on, you can steer them in the right direction for support.

 **2 Raise the subject sensitively**  
People may not expect a healthcare professional to ask them about work or money, so you could begin by giving them some information leaflets to read in their own time.


 **3 Look for signs that a patient is struggling**  
Don't assume based on someone's appearance or how they act. Have they said they feel they must go back to work because of their finances? Have they missed appointments because transport costs too much?


 **4 Keep on checking in**  
Even if someone isn't affected financially at the beginning of their treatment, it could become a problem later. Keep talking so you can offer support throughout their journey, and let them know they can contact Macmillan if things change.

 **5 Tell your patients about Macmillan's expert help**  
Our welfare rights and energy advisers can help people understand the benefits they might be entitled to, how to cope with increased energy bills and assess whether someone is entitled to a Macmillan grant. Our specialist financial guides provide information and support with financial questions or concerns including mortgages, pensions, insurance and can access specialist debt advice. Call **0808 808 00 00**.

 **6 Stay informed about local financial services**  
Macmillan's website can help you do just that. Search for local services at [macmillan.org.uk/in-your-area](http://macmillan.org.uk/in-your-area)

 **7 Offer free patient information booklets**  
Macmillan offers a whole host of free, expert resources on financial and work-related issues. You can browse titles and order a selection for your patients at [be.macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries](http://be.macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries)

 **8 Check people are aware of what they are entitled to**  
For example, people may be eligible for a blue badge, free prescriptions or other benefits.

 **9 Tell your colleagues about Macmillan's financial support services**  
Spread the word among your professional network so we can reach and support even more patients struggling with the cost of cancer.

 **10 Tell people about our useful online tools**  
Our online benefits checker, benefits calculator and budget planner could all prove useful for patients trying to organise their finances. Find them at [macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries](http://macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries)



Find out how Macmillan's welfare rights, benefits and energy advisers, and specialist financial guides can help your patients today.

Call the Macmillan Support Line on **0808 808 00 00** or visit [macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries](http://macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries)