

The Macmillan Benefits Advice Service at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre

The Macmillan Benefits Advice Service offers confidential and comprehensive benefits advice to all patients attending The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust for their treatment.

The Macmillan Benefits Advisors will assess entitlement to benefits and will help you claim the benefits to which you may be entitled. Advice is offered on a wide range of benefits.

The Macmillan Benefits Advisors are employed by The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust; they are not employed by the Department for Work and Pensions and, therefore, are able to offer independent advice. The service is available from 9.00am to 5.00pm on weekdays.

When you've been diagnosed with cancer, finances may not be the first thing you think about, but having cancer can be expensive because you may have to meet unexpected costs, for example:

- You may have extra personal expenses to cover, for example: travelling to hospital for treatment, increased heating bills, extra childcare costs

- You may be unable to work for a while
- Your partner's income may be affected if they need to take time off to look after you

Many people are not aware that they may be entitled to benefits or may not know where to turn to for help. The benefits system is complex and it can be difficult to obtain the right advice. Whilst not everyone with a cancer diagnosis is entitled to help, if you are entitled, these benefits can help to relieve financial worries.

How do I contact the Macmillan Benefits Advice Service?

There are several ways you can access the service. You can ask a member of your cancer treatment team who is looking after you to make the referral on your behalf. A member of the benefits team will then contact you with an appointment. Alternatively, you can call into the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre in the main reception of the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Wirral for general advice or a brief initial assessment. One of the benefit advisors will then make a follow-up appointment if they are able to assist you.

For patients having treatment at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Aintree, the benefits team is available in the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre every Friday between 10am and 4pm.

If you would like further advice about the financial support available, please contact our Macmillan Benefits Advisers on **0151 556 5228 or 0151 556 5309**.

Other sources of advice and information

- Visit the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centres sited in the main entrances of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centres in Wirral and Aintree.
- Macmillan Cancer Support on **0808 808 00 00** (Freephone) or at **www.macmillan.org.uk**.

Macmillan Cancer Support also offer specialist financial guidance about pensions, mortgages and budgeting. They can be contacted on **0808 808 00 00**.

- You may also wish to contact an advice agency nearer home or contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) directly.
- Information on benefits available can be found at: **www.direct.gov.uk**
- You can also seek advice at your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, Age UK (if you are 50 or over) or a local advice agency in your area.

