



## Benefits advice

This is a list of agencies that provide advice on benefits and/or debt management for patients and carers.

### What is the Equality Act 2010?

If you are a patient with cancer, your illness can be classified as a disability under the Equality Act 2010. This act aims to end the discrimination and prejudice which many disabled people and people with long term health conditions face in their everyday lives.

Agency	Contact Details	Notes
<b>Macmillan Cancer Support</b>	Helpline: 0808 808 0000 www.macmillan.org.uk	Find out what benefits are available to you. Mon - Fri: 08.00 - 20.00 Online Financial Support Tools. See Macmillan's booklet <b>Help with the Cost of Cancer</b> .
<b>Macmillan Benefit Calculator</b>	www.macmillan.entitledto.co.uk/home/start	Online benefits calculator that helps you check what benefits you might be entitled to.
<b>Government services and information on welfare benefits</b>	<b>Attendance Allowance (AA)</b> Tel: 0800 731 0122 A benefit for anyone who has difficulty looking after themselves and is <b>over</b> the state pension age.	Phone to obtain forms.
	<b>Personal Independence Payment (PIP)</b> Tel: 0800 917 2222 A benefit for anyone who has difficulty moving around or looking after themselves and is <b>under</b> the state pension age.	Phone to provide details to start claim. Initial phone conversation often takes up to 15 minutes and is considered part 1 of application process. If the claim is approved, it is backdated to the date of the phone call.
	<b>Universal Credit (UC)</b> Mainly for people over 18 and under state pension age who are on a low income, out of work or ill. Helpline: 0800 328 5644 www.gov.uk/universal-credit	<b>NB: UC must be claimed online.</b> For those without internet access, go to Citizens Advice or the Job Centre.  Note: UC replaces new claims to Income Support, Income based JSA + ESA, Housing Benefit, WTC, CTC
	<b>Carer's Allowance</b> Carer's Allowance Unit Tel: 0800 731 0297	Call to obtain forms. Or print or apply online. The person you care for must also be getting a benefit.
<b>Citizens Advice</b>	Advice Line: 0344 411 1444 www.citizensadvice.org.uk For local bureaux, contact number and opening times	Type your postcode in the search facility on the home page. Advice must be sought in the area in which council tax is paid.
<b>AGE UK</b>	Advice Line: 0800 678 1602 www.ageuk.org.uk	Advice on benefits, debt, pensions and other financial matters. Online tool to find local contact details. Online benefits calculator.
<b>Step Change</b>	Tel: 0800 138 1111 www.stepchange.org	Debt advice and management plans.

Agency	Contact Details	Notes
<b>Shelter</b>	Tel: 0808 800 4444 www.shelter.org.uk	Benefits and housing advice online. Call for Emergency Housing Advice
<b>ACAS:</b> Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service	Helpline: 0300 123 1100 Help online - interactive query tool www.acas.org.uk	Mon - Fri: 08.00 - 18.00 Clear, confidential, independent and impartial advice to assist in resolving issues in the workplace.

## Grants

Agency	Contact Details	Notes
<b>CLIC Sargent</b>	Helpline: 0300 330 0803 www.clicsargent.org.uk/what-we-do/financial-support/grants/	£170 Grant for cancer patients under 25 years old. Claim online.
<b>Macmillan Grants</b>	Applications to be completed by a Health Care Professional on behalf of patients. Please ask your clinical nurse specialist or at the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre or other Macmillan Centre.	Grants of up to £350 for patients with cancer (means tested). Applications to be completed by health or social care professional.
<b>Cura Grants</b>	Tel: 01462 814409 www.cura-uk.com/grants	Grants for breast cancer patients (means tested). Applications should be completed by patients or health care professional.
<b>Turn2Us</b> Grant Search	www.turn2us.org.uk	Use the Grant Search to find out what charitable funds you might be eligible for.

## Help with hospital travel costs

<b>Mount Vernon Hospital</b>	<p>If you are on a low income, you may be eligible for help with paying for the cost of transport to and from the hospital for <b>clinic</b> and <b>treatment</b> appointments. This includes bus and train fares and car mileage but not taxi costs.</p> <p>For information about eligibility, please speak to Patient Affairs, Tel: 020 3826 2343</p> <p>You will need to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ proof that you are receiving <b>income based-benefits</b> such as income support or tax credits</li> <li>○ proof of your travel costs such as a receipt or ticket</li> </ul> <p>Please take this paperwork to Cashiers Office in the main building of the hospital. It is open <b>Monday–Friday, 8.30am–3.30pm</b>.</p> <p>For more information on patient transport services, see our Helpful Hint sheet: Patient transport services (HHC265).</p>
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