



Am I entitled to any benefits?

The benefits system can be confusing, especially if you have never been in a position before of needing to claim. A variety of financial help is available for people affected by lung cancer. You may be able to claim some of the following benefits:

Attendance Allowance (over 65 years old)	Must have needed help for at least six months due to illness or disability. Not affected by savings or income.
Carers Allowance	Must spend at least 35 hours per week caring for a relative or friend, and earn less than £100 per week. Not affected by savings, although person being cared for must be receiving either Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance at middle or high rate.
Employment and Support Allowance	Provides financial help to people who are unable to work because of illness or disability. It also provides personalised support to those who are able to work. There are two types of entitlement: contributions based and income based. You may be entitled to either or both depending on your national insurance contributions and income/savings.
Personal Independence Payment—PIP	Help with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or a disability if you're aged 16 to 64. How much you get is not based on your condition, but how your condition affects you. You'll need an assessment to work out the level of help you get. Your award will be regularly reassessed to make sure you're getting the right support.
Statutory Sick Pay	Must earn at least £111 per week before tax and national insurance. Can be paid up to 28 weeks.
Working Tax Credit (Disability element)	Must qualify for Working Tax Credit, work at least 16 hours per week, and have an illness or disability which puts you at a disadvantage from getting a job.

Please note that the rates mentioned in the benefits table are accurate at the time this factsheet was produced.



**If you are terminally ill, your claim has special rules. You don't need to meet the three and six month qualifying conditions and will be dealt with more quickly. Your cancer doctor or lung cancer nurse specialist will need to fill in a form called a DSI 500.*

Most cancer information centres can either help you to complete the required forms or signpost you to a benefits advisor who will be able to help you. These advisers can often also track the progress of your application and make sure the process goes smoothly. There is a different form for each type of benefit. You can get the forms by phoning the **Disability Benefits Helpline** on **08457 123 456**.

In addition to benefits you may also be able to get help with paying your rent and/or Council Tax. You may be entitled if you are either working and have low earnings, or if you are not working and have a low income, pension and/or benefits. Contact your local council for information on how to claim. You may also be able to get help with prescriptions, dental treatment, spectacles and the cost of travelling to and from hospital. Ask your lung cancer nurse specialist or benefits advisor about the Blue Badge Parking Scheme or Mobility Scheme.

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation offers small grants to people affected by lung cancer. Speak to your lung cancer nurse specialist to find out if you qualify. For more information, visit www.roycastle.org/patientgrants. Other charities also offer financial help. Your lung cancer nurse specialist will be able to advise you of any available funds.

“Find out what financial help is available as soon as you are diagnosed. We suffered in silence and used up all our savings before getting help.”
Phil

My lung cancer might have been caused by my working conditions. Can I get any extra benefits or compensation?

Most lung cancers are not caused by working conditions. However, some types of lung cancer can be caused by coming into contact with asbestos or silica dust. A number of chemical agents including fumes from arsenic, benzene, nickel or tin (or their compounds); or fumes from a number of chromate compounds also carry an increased risk of developing lung cancer.



People at risk include those who have worked as ladders (and in other trades involving heavy exposure to asbestos dust); dyers; coke and gas plant workers; metal smelters and others. Some people who come into contact with cancer causing chemicals at work may also have smoked. Smoking and exposure to these chemicals further increases your risk of getting lung cancer.

If you have lung cancer and have come into contact with any of the above cancer causing chemicals at work, you may also be entitled to Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit. You may also be able to claim civil compensation. Please ask your cancer doctor or lung cancer nurse specialist if it is appropriate for you to apply. For more information contact your local Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit centre at **www.gov.uk/industrial-injuries-disablement-benefit**. To claim this benefit you will need to complete a form and send a report from your doctor or lung cancer nurse specialist giving details about your lung cancer. To claim compensation you should seek advice from lawyers who specialise in dealing with claims for occupational lung disease. Good lawyers should offer you a first interview at no cost to you.

GIVING HELP AND HOPE

The charity has two aims:

Supporting people living with lung cancer - Working closely with lung cancer nurses, we provide information, run lung cancer support groups and offer telephone and online support. Our patient grants offer some financial help to people affected by lung cancer.

Saving lives - We fund lung cancer research, campaign for better treatment and care for people who have lung cancer, and raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis. Our lung cancer prevention work helps people to quit smoking and encourages young people not to start smoking.

Call us on 0333 323 7200 (option 2)

This information has been taken from the following sources:
Lung cancer—answering your questions: Living with lung cancer 2014