

Accessing support: Kidney Cancer

Kidney cancer can bring about various emotional challenges and it is important to look after your mental health as you navigate life with your diagnosis. Below are some resources aimed at enhancing your understanding of kidney cancer and how other patients have dealt with the associated practical and emotional challenges. You might quite understandably wish to receive some support at times. For some people family and friends can be supportive, but you might also wish to contact one of the many organisations/services that can provide information or support to those with kidney cancer. It is important to recognise that life with kidney cancer can be challenging at times, and to allow yourself to seek help if you feel you need it.



Below is a list of organisations who may be able to offer you some support, as well as some resources that you may find helpful to read/listen to. The range and quality of services/support available from such organisations may vary. This list has been gathered as signposting only, and The Royal Marsden cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information provided by an organisation listed or the quality of their services.

If you have any questions or would like further advice/guidance about where to seek specialist help in your local area, you can speak with a member of your Royal Marsden treatment team or the Adult Psychological Support Service.

Action Kidney Cancer

A patient-led UK kidney cancer charity offering support and information to those affected by kidney cancer. Their support includes personal support, patient forums, and information about kidney cancer for patients, their carers and families. Their website contains clinical resources, blogs, real life stories, guides, clinical trials and research help and advice. You can reach out for direct support through their helpline or email, listed below.

Website link: <https://actionkidneycancer.org/help-support/>

Helpline: **0800 121 8721**

Email: support@actionkidneycancer.org



Kidney Cancer UK

A charity offering education and support to those affected by kidney cancer. You can access information on kidney cancer, its diagnosis, treatment and adapting to life with a diagnosis. The charity also has some provision for free counselling for patients, carers, and family.

Website Link: <https://www.kcuk.org.uk/> Support line: **0800 002 9002**

Email: hello@kcuk.org.uk

Look Good Feel Better

This charity aims to support the physical and emotional wellbeing of individuals affected by cancer through free online and in-person workshops, and video resources. The underlying principle of this organisation is that, through self-care and taking care of one's appearance, it is possible to improve your self-confidence following physical changes due to cancer. They have materials tailored to men, women and teenagers, and work to assist people of all skin colours, ages, and cancer variations. Workshops include skincare, nailcare, grooming, oral care, shaving, hair loss and wigs, make-up, and advice on nutrition and fitness. They work with people up to one year post active cancer treatment. They also run the [HeadWrappers Service](#), offering a range of workshops and classes that provide practical advice on caring for your scalp and hair before, during and after cancer treatment. They also demonstrate useful scarf tying techniques, provide complimentary gift bags with headwear, and also help people connect with each other in a welcoming and safe space.

Website link: <https://lookgoodfeelbetter.co.uk/>

Macmillan – Kidney Cancer Forum

A kidney cancer support group for people with a renal cancer diagnosis and their loved ones. Join the group to get involved, share experiences and support, discuss treatment options, side effects and more.

Website Link: https://community.macmillan.org.uk/cancer_types/kidney-cancer-forum

Macmillan – Understanding kidney cancer booklet

This booklet is about renal cell cancer (RCC). It covers what RCC is, how its diagnosed and treated, and how you can address social and financial concerns related to your diagnosis.

Website Link: [Understanding kidney cancer – Macmillan Orders](#)

Urology Care Foundation – Kidney Cancer Podcasts

This site takes you to a collection of podcasts which you might find to be insightful introductions on some topics concerning kidney cancer and its treatment.

Website Link: <https://www.urologyhealth.org/healthy-living/urology-care-podcast/kidney-cancer-podcasts>



Other APSS Information and Resources

The Adult Psychological Support Service has a range of signposting information sheets on topics such as: coping at different stages of the cancer pathway, supporting your physical and emotional wellbeing, relationships, and information specific to certain types of cancer.

You can view the signposting information sheets on The Royal Marsden's [Patient Information Library](#) and the [Adult Psychological Support Service Website](#) (under 'Further information and resources'). You can also request a copy of these by emailing Psychological.SupportAdmin@rmh.nhs.uk or telephoning **020 7808 2777** (Chelsea) / **020 8661 3006** (Sutton).

Additional support services

Cancer Care Map

An online database of cancer support services. You can search by postcode or by particular themes e.g. cancer type.

Website link: <https://www.cancercaremap.org/>

Maggie's Cancer Centres

Cancer care centres with multiple locations, including The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton and Charing Cross Hospital, West London. Workshops, groups, information and one-to-one counselling available.

Website link: <https://www.maggies.org/>

Phone number: **0300 123 1801**

NHS Talking Therapies

NHS website to help you find your local psychological talking therapies service based on your GP address. Your local NHS talking therapies service can be helpful if you would like psychological support for cancer when you are no longer regularly coming in for appointments at The Royal Marsden, as well as for concerns unrelated to cancer or that predated your cancer and have become worse due to it.

Website link: [Find NHS talking therapies for anxiety and depression - NHS](#)

If you need any specialist and personalised advice about your cancer treatment, symptoms or side effects, please contact The Royal Marsden Hotline. This hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **020 8915 6899**.

The Royal Marsden's Adult Psychological Support Service offers short-term, cancer-specific psychological and psychiatric support. You can either self-refer or ask somebody in your Royal Marsden healthcare team to refer you. For more information, visit [Adult Psychological Support Service | The Royal Marsden](#). Alternatively, contact us directly on **020 7808 2777** (Chelsea), **020 8661 3006** (Sutton), or email Psychological.SupportAdmin@rmh.nhs.uk.





If you have ideas for other signposting or information sheets, or if you would like to be involved in working with APSS to improve the service we offer, please scan the QR code to see more about our patient and public involvement, or email Psychological.SupportAdmin@rmh.nhs.uk or telephone **020 7808 2777** (Chelsea) / **020 8661 3006** (Sutton) with your ideas.

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