

Where to Start...Practical Concerns

Suggestions for resources when you **start** to look for information about Practical Concerns
Prepared by: The Trillium Health Partner's Psychosocial Oncology Team Revised: December 2017

Common Questions

What about work?

Please speak with your healthcare team about working with cancer

How will I pay my bills if I cannot work?

All the options below have eligibility requirements

Government Programs

- **Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)**
 - Financial Assessment must be completed to qualify.
 - OW Peel Regional Centre
 - 905-793-9200
 - OW Halton Regional Center
 - 905-825-6000
 - ODSP
 - 1-800-361-0897

Please Note: If you live outside Peel or Halton Region, go to the following website to find the phone number or your local OW office.

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/programs/social/ow/index.aspx>

- **Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits (EI)**
 - Medical criteria required to qualify
 - Minimum contribution required
 - You can apply on-line at: www.servicecanada.gc.ca
 - 1-800-206-7218
- **Canada Pension Plan – Disability**
 - Medical criteria to qualify
 - Minimum contribution required
 - Social Workers can assist you with the application process. Please call the number below for more information
 - 1-800-277-9914

Your Employer

- Check with your human resources department or your union representative to see if your employer provides short term disability and/or long term disability benefits

Common Questions

Charitable Organizations

All of the charitable organizations below have eligibility criteria. Some may require the help of a social worker to complete.

- **Colon Cancer Canada**
 - May provide financial help for individuals receiving treatment for colorectal cancers
 - coloncancercanada.ca
- **Helping Hands**
 - May help with the payment of utility bills that are past due
 - cancerrecovery.ca
- **KC's Cancer Cushion fund**
 - May provide financial help for individuals who are receiving cancer treatment
 - Limited to the Newmarket area
 - www.cushionfund.com/index.html
- **Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation**
 - For individuals with breast cancer who are receiving treatment
 - www.kellyshiresfoundation.org
 - 1-877-436-6467

What about getting to my appointments?

- Canadian Cancer Society – Volunteer Driver Program
 - May offer assistance with transportation to your medical appointments.
 - For more information call 1-888-939-3333
- If you or your family and friends are not able to drive you to appointments, you may be able to receive rides to your medical appointments

How can I pay for my medication?

- Medication Access Specialist or Drug Navigator can assist you with information on drug medication coverage. For more information, please call them. Please refer to where to start... physical concerns for phone numbers.

How will I know when I am ready to return to work?

- You can discuss this with your health care team
- Wellspring has a Return to Work program that some patients have found helpful when they are finishing treatment and beginning to think about returning to work
 - Oakville 905-257-1988
 - Brampton 905-792-6480