

2. Support patients, survivors and families at their most vulnerable

We at the Irish Cancer Society know from our daily conversations with patients, survivors, families and healthcare workers, and our detailed research on the financial and social impact of a cancer diagnosis, that the impact of cancer extends well beyond the physical and clinical.

In Budget 2022, to support cancer patients, survivors and their families to deal with the financial, social and psychological burden cancer can bring, we are calling on Government to:

- Provide €5 million to public hospitals to reduce the cost of car parking charges for patients;
- Reduce the Drugs Payment Scheme cap to a maximum payment of €100 a month, and a maximum payment of €72 a month for single-headed households;
- Provide €30.6 million to abolish Inpatient Charges;
- Abolish prescription charges for medical card holders;
- Provide medical cards to all cancer patients upon diagnosis until treatment has finished.
- Increase the number of patients and survivors returning to work who can access Partial Capacity Benefit;
- Fund new psycho-oncology posts;
- Fund fertility treatment for cancer patients and survivors.

3. Prioritise cancer prevention

We know that we cannot simply treat our way out of cancer. Between 30-40% of cancers are preventable. Smart, targeted investment, allied to revenue raising measures, can help in stopping cancer before it starts.

To help achieve this, we believe the following actions will save lives for future generations and potentially eliminate a number of invasive cancers:

- Fund the elimination of HPV-caused cancers and HPV catch-up plans;
- Increase excise duty on cigarettes by €1 a pack, and invest in helping smokers to quit;
- Allocate 20% of the transport capital budget to walking and cycling;
- Fund the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan.



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Email us on supportline@irishcancer.ie

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