

In partnership with

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

easy
read

Cervical screening





About this easy read booklet



This booklet is about cervical screening.



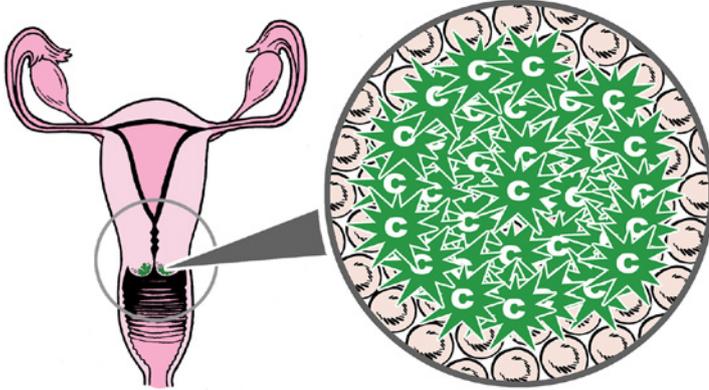
You can learn about what happens to you when you go for cervical screening.



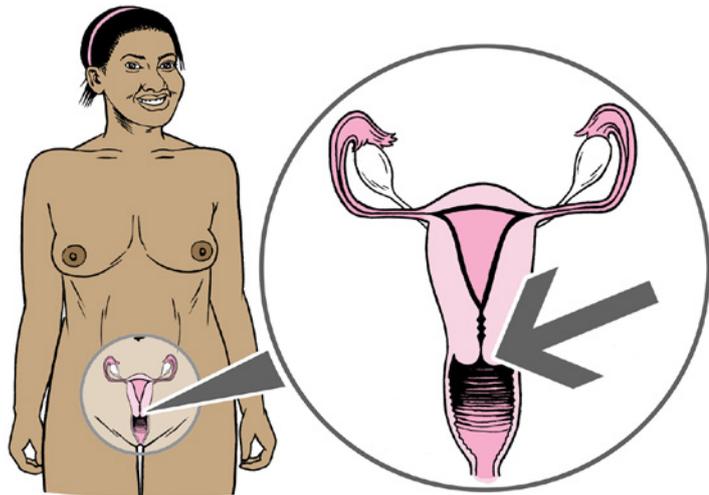
If you are worried about your health, you should talk to a doctor or nurse.



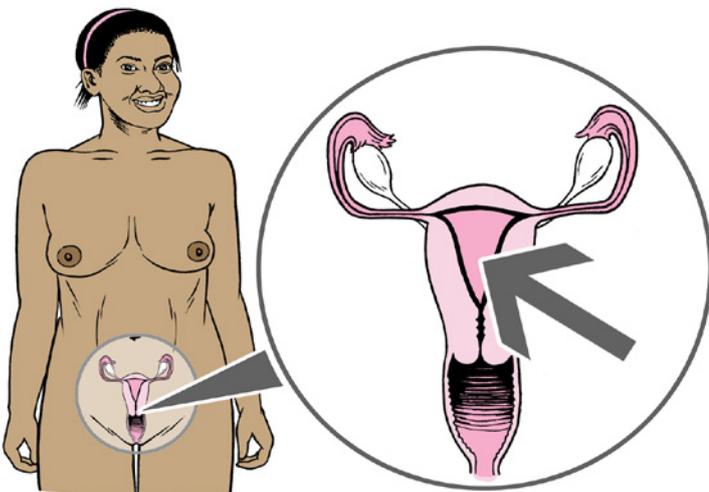
Cervical screening



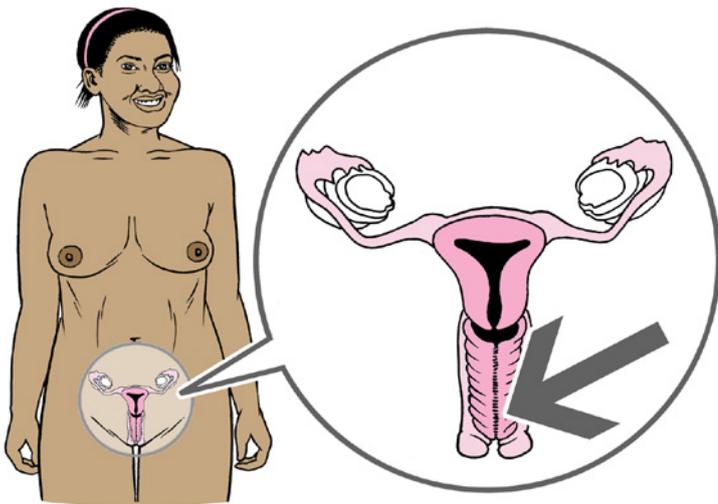
Women can get cancer of the cervix.



The cervix is the entrance to your womb. It is inside your body at the top of your vagina.



The womb is a round organ inside your body in the lower tummy area. It is where a baby grows if you are pregnant.



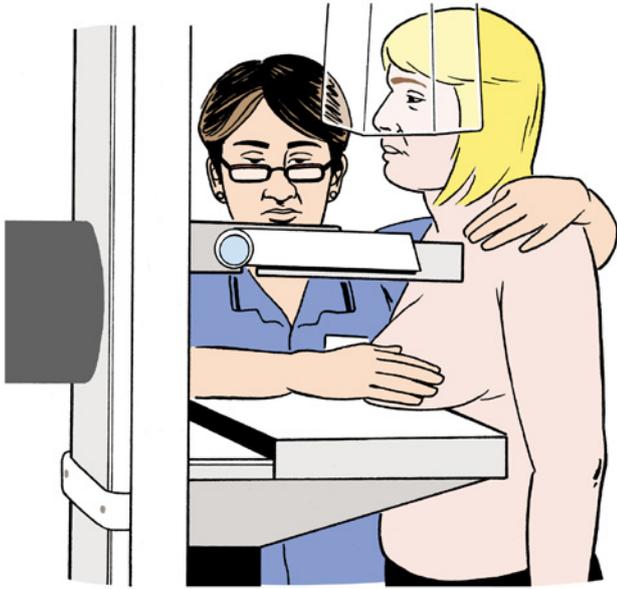
The vagina is a passageway inside your body. It is part of a woman's sexual organs. The entrance to the vagina is between your legs.



All women between the ages of 25 and 64 are asked to go for cervical screening. This used to be called a smear test.



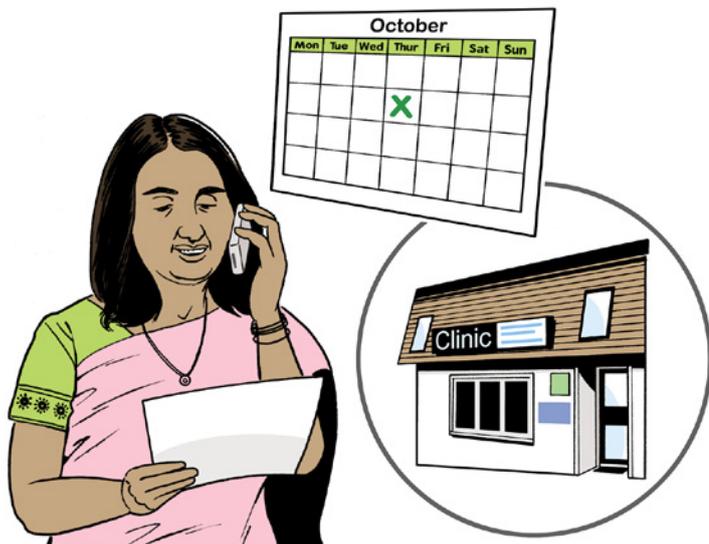
A cervical screening checks if your cervix is healthy. It checks for early signs that cancer might develop. This means you can have treatment to stop you getting cancer.



There are other screening tests that look for the very early signs of cancer. You have screenings even if you feel well. It means cancer can be treated or stopped before it causes problems.



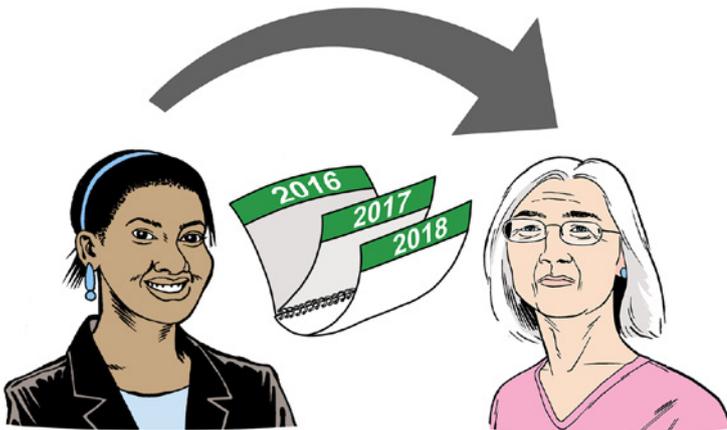
You will be sent a letter inviting you for cervical screening.



You will need to book this at your doctor's surgery.



It is your choice if you go for cervical screening or not. It is a good way of checking you are healthy and it can stop you getting cancer.



If you are aged between 25 and 49, you will be invited to cervical screening every 3 years.



If you are aged between 50 and 64, you will be invited to cervical screening every 5 years.



The cervical screening test will be done by a nurse or doctor. If you think you have missed your letter, ask your doctor or nurse.



If you are worried about having the test, tell your doctor or nurse. They will try to help. Tell them if you prefer a female nurse or doctor.



You can bring someone to support you as well.



What happens



The doctor or nurse will talk to you about your health.



They will then ask you to take off your pants.



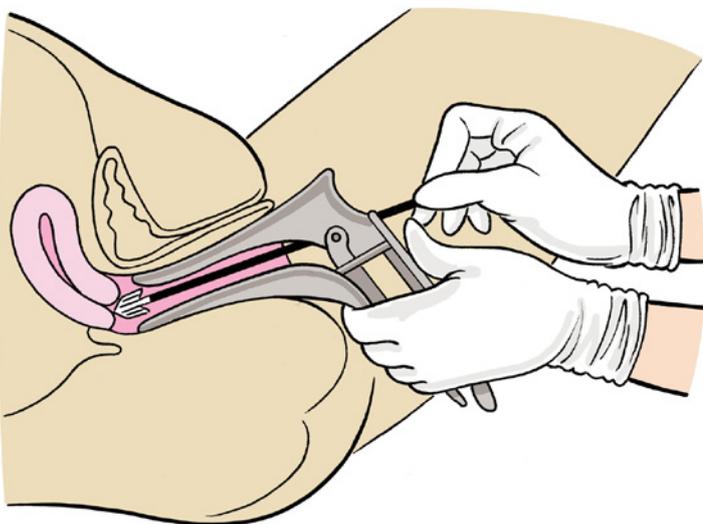
And then ask you to lie down on the bed in the room.



The test should not hurt but may be slightly uncomfortable. Try to relax and not worry.



The doctor or nurse will use something called a speculum to open your vagina so that they can see your cervix.

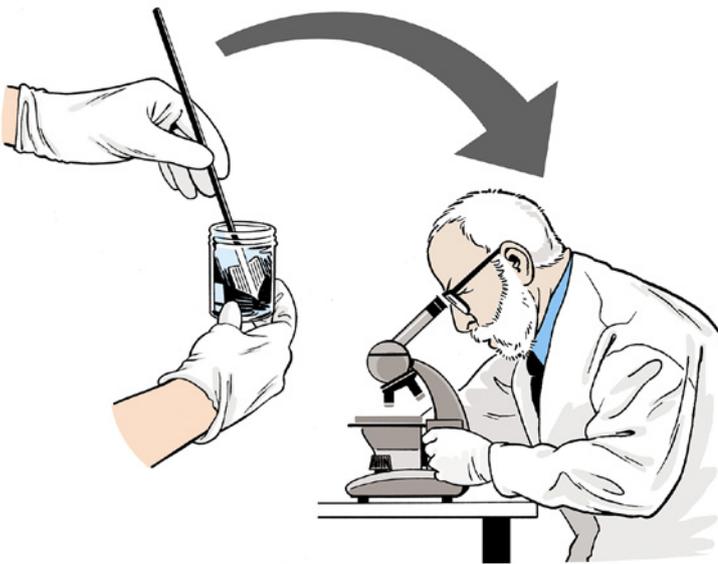


They will then use a small brush to take some **cells** from your cervix.

Cells are the tiny building blocks that make up people's bodies.



That is it. Then you can put your clothes on again.



The cells that are on the brush will be sent for testing.



What happens next?



You will be sent a letter with your results. This may take a few weeks.



The letter may say that everything is OK.



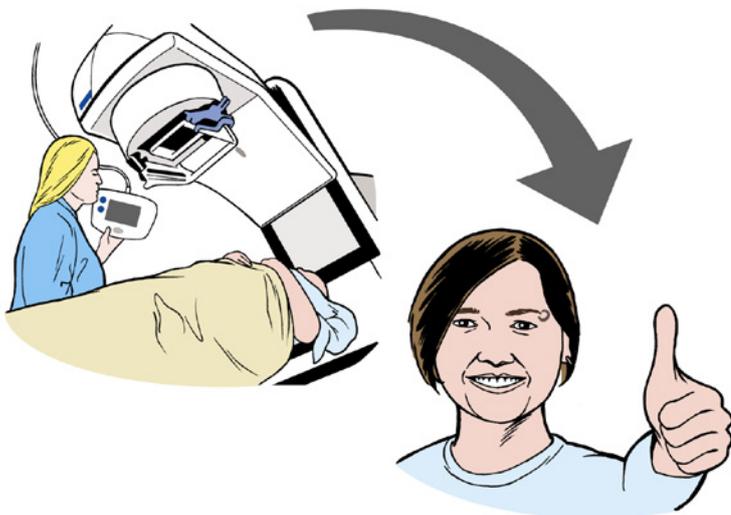
Sometimes you will be asked to have another test.



This might be because the test did not work properly.



Or it might be because the test shows something is wrong.



The second test will find out if you need treatment to stop you getting cancer.



Ask for support to find out why you have to have another test.



How Macmillan can help you

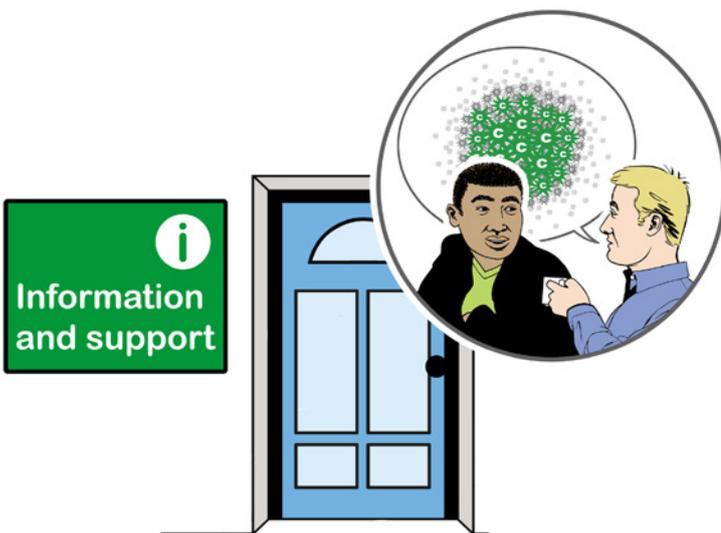


You can get support from:

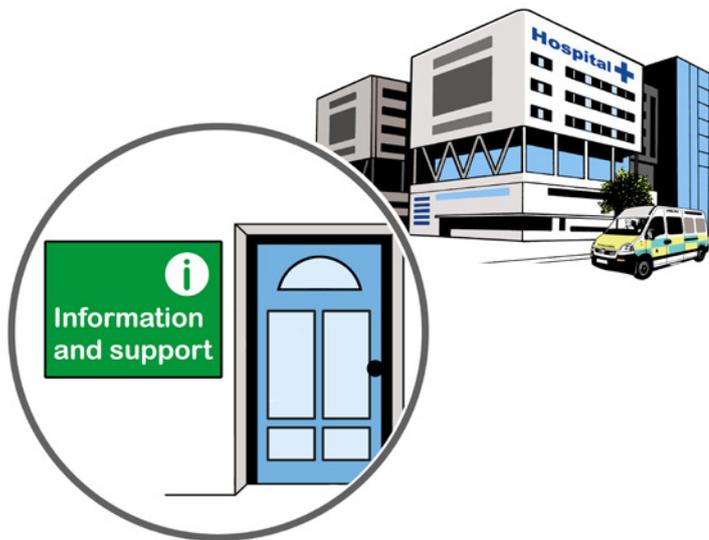
- The Macmillan Support Line. Call **0808 808 00 00** 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm.



- The Macmillan website. Visit macmillan.org.uk for lots of information about cancer and living with cancer.



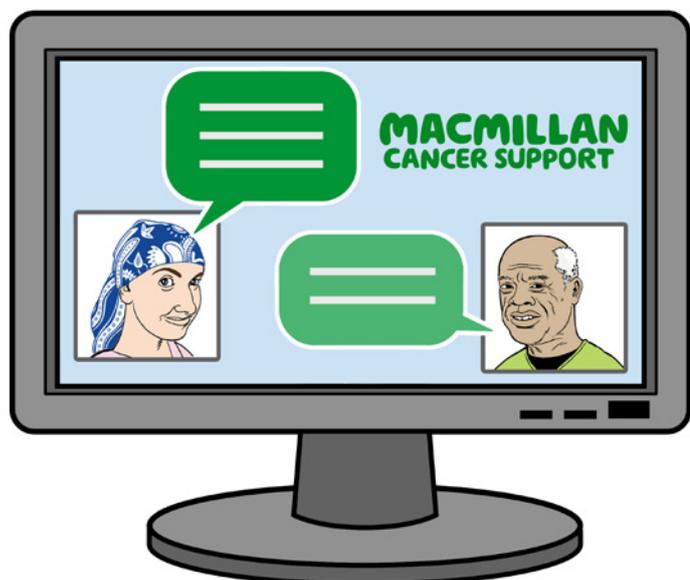
- Information centres. At an information centre, you can talk to a cancer support specialist and get written information.



Find your nearest centre at [macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres) or call us. Your hospital might have a centre.



- Local support groups. Find a group near you at [macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups) or call us.



- The Macmillan Online Community. You can talk to other people in similar situations at [macmillan.org.uk/community](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/community)



More easy read booklets



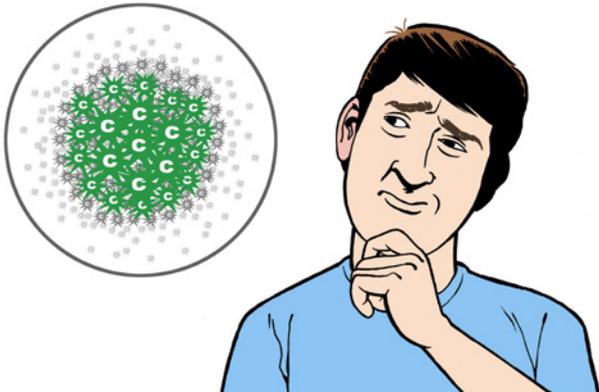
Order more easy read booklets from [macmillan.org.uk/easyread](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/easyread)

There are booklets on lots of topics:



About Macmillan

- How Macmillan Cancer Support can help you



About Cancer

- Lung cancer
- What is cancer?



Signs and symptoms

- Breast care for women
- Cervical screening
- How to check your balls [testicles]
- Screening for cancer
- Signs of cancer
- Symptoms of cervical cancer
- Symptoms of prostate cancer



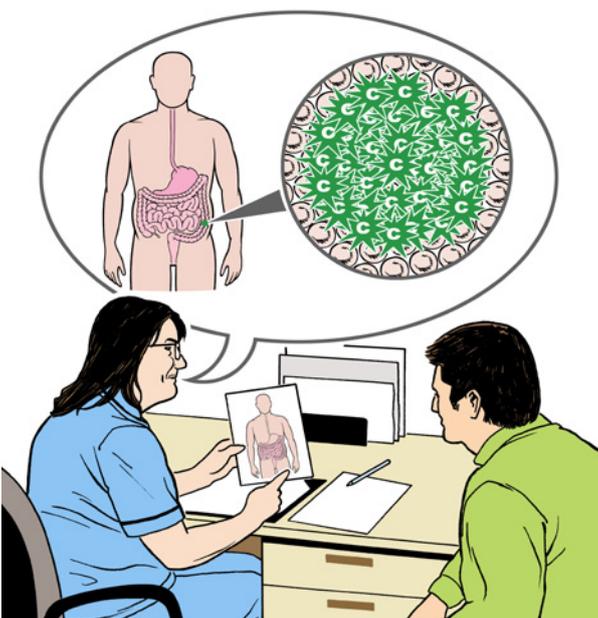
Living a healthy life

- Be safe in the sun
- Drink less alcohol
- Eat a healthy diet
- Exercise
- Have safe sex
- Stop smoking



Tests for cancer

- Having a biopsy
- Having a colonoscopy
- Having a CT scan
- Having an endoscopy
- Having examinations and blood tests
- Having an MRI scan
- Having an ultrasound
- Scans and x-rays



Being told you have cancer

- Finding out you have cancer
- Getting your test results
- Seeing the doctor



Treatment for cancer

- Chemotherapy
- Giving your consent
- Having surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Side effects from chemotherapy
- Side effects from radiotherapy
- Treatments for prostate cancer



Living with cancer

- 7 steps to equal healthcare
- After treatment for cancer
- Claiming benefits when you have cancer
- Complementary therapies
- Talking about cancer and your feelings
- Things that are important to me
- Work and cancer
- Your feelings and cancer
- Your sex life and cancer
- Your social life and cancer



End of life

- Changes that can happen at the end of life
- Choosing where to die
- Getting ready to die
- If you are dying from cancer
- Making decisions about the future if you are dying
- Spirituality and religion at the end of life
- The end of life
- Thinking about your funeral
- Who can help if you are dying



After someone dies

- Going to a funeral when someone dies
- Grief and loss when someone dies
- How you may feel when someone dies
- What can help you feel better when someone dies

To order easy read booklets like this one go to the website macmillan.org.uk/easyread or call us on **0808 808 00 00**

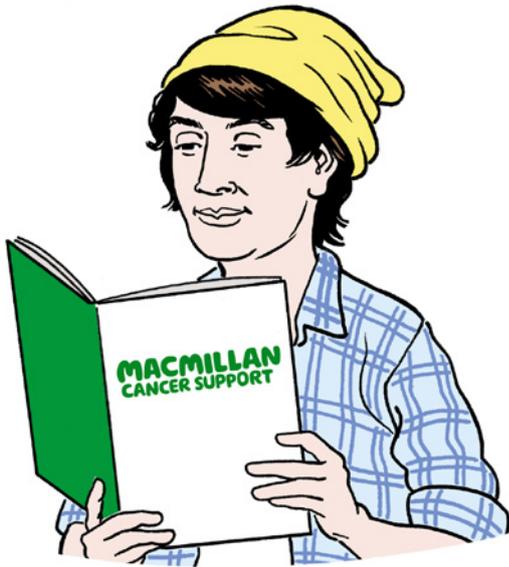


More information and resources



Macmillan website

There is lots of information about cancer at macmillan.org.uk



Booklets about cancer

You can order booklets about cancer from be.macmillan.org.uk



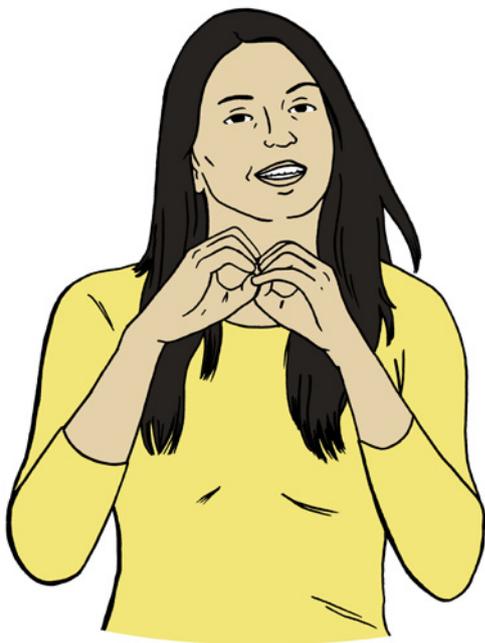
Videos

You can watch videos about cancer at macmillan.org.uk/videos



Audio

You can listen to information about cancer and order CDs from [macmillan.org.uk/audio](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/audio)



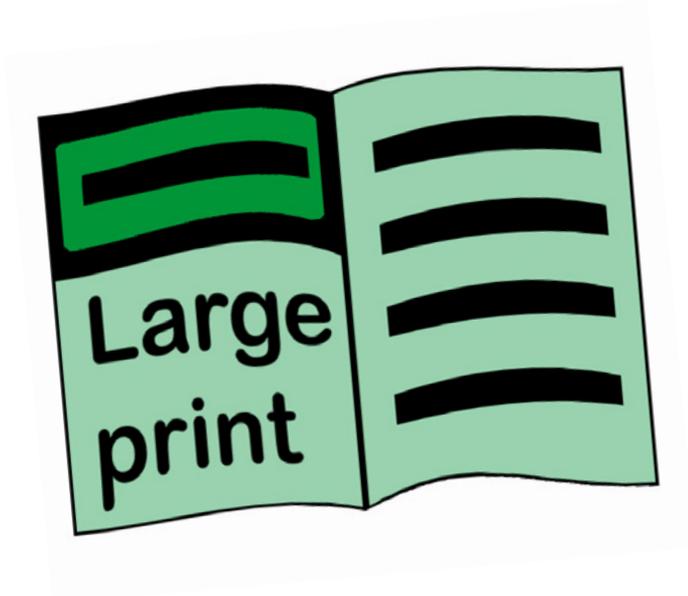
British Sign Language (BSL)

You can watch information in BSL at [macmillan.org.uk/bsl](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/bsl)



eBooks

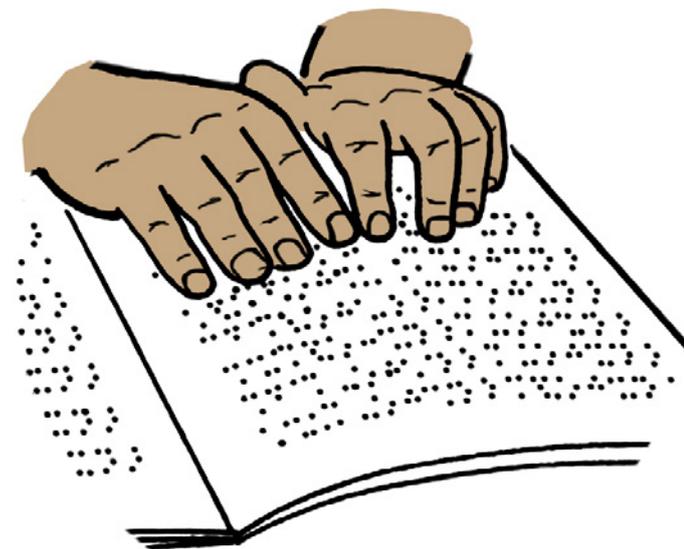
You can get eBooks about cancer from [be.macmillan.org.uk](https://www.be.macmillan.org.uk)



Large print

Tell us if you need information in large print.

Email: cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk



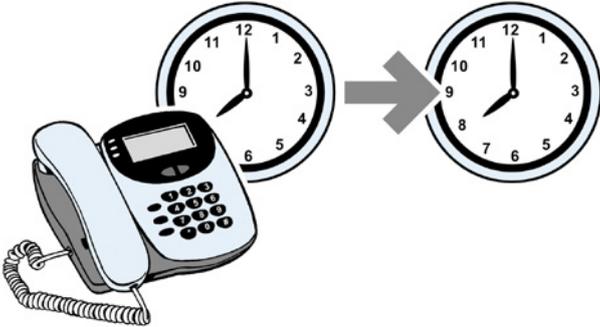
Braille

Tell us if you need information in Braille.

Email: cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk

This booklet is about cancer.

It is for anyone who has a learning disability or who finds easier words and pictures helpful. If you have more questions about cancer or would like to talk to us, call the Macmillan Support Line.



- Call us free on:
0808 808 00 00
7 days a week from 8am to 8pm.



- If you use a textphone, you can call the Macmillan Support Line using the Next Generation Text (NGT) service by dialling
18001 0808 808 00 00



- Or go to the website
macmillan.org.uk

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