

**NM Cancer Center
4901 Lang NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-4397
Telephone 842-8171**

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR CANCER PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Insurance and financial needs:

If you are **uninsured**, speak to the business office about making payments.

To initiate a **Social Security Disability** application, call 1-800-772-1213. (Ask hospital or NM Cancer Center oncology social worker for assistance.)

To apply for **Medicaid or NM State Coverage Insurance**, call 841-7700 (Bernalillo County Income Support Division) or the appropriate number in your county.

NM Medical Insurance Pool is available for otherwise uninsurable persons. Call 622-4711 for information or applications or go to the Web at www.nmmip.com.

Speak with the **Oncology Social Worker** at your hospital or at the NM Cancer Center if you are having financial concerns. They may be able to direct you to community agencies with resources such as food stamps, food, utility assistance, etc.

NM Cancer Center Foundation - Grants available to help with living expenses for NM Cancer Center patients; call **796-3061**.

Prescriptions/medical equipment and supplies:

Check with your insurance company or HMO to see if they cover **prescribed medications**. Medicaid and Medicare Part D (if you selected a program) cover some prescribed medications. If paying privately, do some comparative shopping as prices do vary. Pharmacies will usually give prices over the phone. Many drug companies have an indigent program which requires an application.

Medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, oxygen, etc.) is usually covered by insurance but will require a doctor's prescription and possibly a co-pay.

The American Cancer Society has a **gift closet** of wigs, turbans, scarves, prostheses, etc. (260-2105). They are available from 3 - 5 pm Wed. in the NM Cancer Center.

Housing for out-of-town patients:

Casa Esperanza is a home away from home for cancer patients and families. Rates are \$27 for a room; \$32 for a suite. It has communal kitchen facilities; a caregiver *must* stay with patient. They require a refundable \$15 deposit. (277-9880; 1005 Yale NE)

Holland Rose provides a small number of inexpensive rooms at 132 Griegos Rd. NW for cancer patients in treatment in Albuquerque. Call Debra Sponsel. (345-2020)

Ask the oncology social worker for other possible temporary housing near the clinic.

Transportation:

Some exempt **Medicaid** (NOT Medicare) recipients can obtain taxi rides with a current Medicaid card. Each Medicaid Salud provider has a contract with a transportation provider so contact your caseworker for specific information.

Other transportation providers:

American Cancer Society	262-6021
Office of Senior Affairs (over 60)	848-1355 or 848-1356
Jewish Family Services (NE heights)	291-1818
Catholic Social Services (over 55)	724-4618
Sun Van (for disabled)	764-6165
Go Fors (for fee)	332-1919
Saferide (for those with Pres. Salud)	1-800-797-7433

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Home delivered meals:

Meals on Wheels is available at a cost of \$4.75 per day. (823-8060)

Office of Senior Affairs can deliver meals through their Nutrition Program. Call 764-6400 to set up an intake interview.

Pamphlets/educational materials/reliable websites:

National Cancer Institute 1-800-4-CANCER; www.cancer.gov

American Cancer Society 1-800-227-2345; www.cancer.org

People Living with Cancer www.plwc.org

People Living Through Cancer - local cancer library (3939 San Pedro NE).

Homecare/hospice:

Medicare and other insurance cover **home health visits** by nurses, PT, OT and Speech therapists, social workers and home health aides when ordered by a doctor for a qualified patient. These are brief visits, usually a few times a week. Private insurance and HMO's may have a preferred provider—check your policy for details.

A physician orders **hospice** when it appears that a patient's life expectancy is less than six months. It is for the person who no longer wishes to seek aggressive, curative treatment. The goal of hospice is to provide comfort and dignity during the final phase of life. This service is covered 100% by Medicare. Most insurance and HMO's have a hospice benefit also.

For **shift coverage**, you may need to hire privately. Talk to the social worker or check the yellow pages under "home health care." Unless you have a long-term care policy, you will have to pay privately for this service.

Support groups/education/counseling:

The **NM Cancer Center** has a number of offerings for patients and their families including **Navigating the System** (for those newly diagnosed); **First Tuesdays**; **Writing to Thrive**, a therapeutic writing class; caregiver training twice a year, **Strength for Caring**. Call the **oncology social worker** at 796-3061 for more details or to access short term counseling and other resources.

The **NM Cancer Center dietitian** can be reached at 822-3914.

Another source of ongoing **support groups** is **People Living through Cancer** (242-3263). They can also match a cancer patient with a trained volunteer who has a similar diagnosis. They hold an annual conference and have a library.

The American Cancer Society (10501 Montgomery NE; Suite 300; 260-2105) provides the following free programs:

-Look Good...Feel Better – Free class is held regularly at various sites in which volunteer beauticians discuss hair loss and complexion changes during treatment. Call Carol at 796-3061 to register for the weekly one, Wed., 4:15 pm, at the NM Cancer Ctr.

-Reach to Recovery – One-to-one visitation program for those newly diagnosed with breast cancer in which trained breast cancer survivors offer support and practical information.

The Prostate Cancer Support Association of New Mexico, Inc. has support groups and information for those diagnosed with prostate cancer (254-7784).

For those diagnosed with leukemia or lymphoma, call the **Leukemia & Lymphoma**

Society at 872-0141. Address: 3411 Candelaria NE, Suite M. They have a support group and a limited financial aid program.

Cancer Services of NM offers a free cancer retreat for cancer patients and their families at Glorieta, NM in the spring and fall of each year. Call 259-9583 for more information