

# Additional Information



Canadian Cancer Society  
Société canadienne du cancer

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**RESOURCES TO PATIENTS - It's a good idea for patients to remain as organized as possible: keeping a record of phone numbers and names of people they have spoken to; dates called; topic discussed.**

## **INCOME SUPPORT**

### **Work Benefits & Insurance**

People who have insurance plans through their work or spouse should contact their employer to clarify the coverage for which they are eligible. These plans may cover short or long term disability, drugs, or other benefits which may be useful (such as massage or counselling). People with a mortgage, loan, line of credit or whole life insurance should check with their bank or company to see if they are paying for insurance that covers the payments or premiums in the case of disability.

### **Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits**

Those who have paid E. I. Premiums are entitled to up to 15 weeks payment, equalling about half their weekly insurable earnings. A medical certificate must be provided. There is usually a two-week waiting period before benefits are available and another two to four weeks before the application is processed, so people should apply as soon as they stop working. Information and applications are available from Human Resource Centres.

### **Compassionate Care Benefits**

A maximum of six weeks of compassionate care benefits may be paid to Employment Insurance (EI) eligible workers who must be absent from work in order to provide care to a family member who has a serious medical condition with a serious risk of death within 6 months.

### **Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits**

People who have paid into the Canada Pension Plan and are between 18 and 65 years, may be eligible for CPP benefits. Benefits are based on how long and how much was paid into the plan, and are payable four months after a person is considered disabled. Patients may be eligible for a disability pension if the illness is both **severe** and **prolonged**. CPP defines **severe** as being “unable to regularly carry out any gainful employment” and **prolonged** as meaning “that the disability is likely to be of indefinite duration or is likely to result in death”. Applicants must have worked for at least 6 years. The pension is based upon past earnings and there is also an allowance for children

between 18 and 25 who are attending school. Information and applications are available from Human Resource Centres.

### **Social Assistance**

The province offers financial assistance to people as “a program of last resort”. Qualification is determined by a means test that allows coverage of only basic needs (food, clothing, household, personal and housing). They also take into consideration any other resources available to the patient, such as RRSPs, money in bank, cars, properties, investments, and family. People who may qualify for Financial Assistance are urged to do so, as the program can give them more assistance than the Cancer Society is able to. In addition to the types of assistance available from the Cancer Society, the province will cover a personal comfort allowance, baby-sitting, re-hab, counselling and after school care. Those with a low income and few liquid assets should contact their regional service centre for more information especially if they have high costs associated with their illness. The province will extend the qualifying list of basic expenses to include necessary medical expenses. Assessments are based on individual circumstances. **It is a good idea for an applicant to keep a record of who is spoken to, the day called and what was discussed.**

### **Medical Tax Credits**

Three types of Medical Tax Credit are available: medical expenses, disability, and attendant care. Ask the person who prepares your income or Revenue Canada for more information. Save all receipts for your medical expenses. As well, without receipts, you can claim .36/km for any medically required travel over 40 km. (one way) and \$11/meal up to \$33/day for food costs if you are travelling for medical reasons. If you have received assistance from the Canadian Cancer Society, deduct the amount of assistance you received from your total medical expenses.

**DRUG ASSISTANCE** - *Also see Social Assistance and Work Benefits & Insurance.*

### **PEI Family Health Benefit**

Families with children under 18 years and net family incomes of less than \$22,000 + \$2000 per child can apply for assistance. Only certain eligible drugs are covered. There is no co-payment but applicants must pay the \$7.00 dispensing fee. Information and applications are available from Health and Social Services. For more information, call 1-877-577-3737. Families who receive this drug assistance can apply to the Cancer Society for reimbursement of the extra fee if they have an application on file with them.

### **Senior's Drug Plan**

All seniors over 65 years and eligible for PEI Medicare are also eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan. Seniors may access this assistance by presenting the pharmacist with their PEI Health Card (orange card). Seniors must pay the first \$11.00 for each prescription plus the pharmacy professional fee. Not all drugs are covered. (Seniors who qualify for assistance with the Cancer Society, can apply for coverage of uncovered drugs.) Call 1-877-577-3737 for more information.

## **TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE**

### **Hope Air**

Hope Air is a charitable organization that co-ordinates free flights for patients requiring treatment out-of-province. The patient's request may also include transportation for an escort. A limited number of seats are available and those are assigned on a priority basis. More information is available from the Cancer Society office or directly from **Hope Air Toll Free at 1-877-346-4673**. Patients can apply directly or through the Cancer Society. The Society will pay the processing fee on behalf of those patients requiring financial assistance as part of the air transportation allowance **if they qualify for the Emergency Assistance program**.

### **Air Canada**

Patients who must travel by air for medical treatment and require an essential escort (i.e. those accompanying a child or disabled adult) can apply to Air Canada for assistance (usually the escort's fare being reduced by 50%). Air Canada does not have any other medical assistance. Its Maritime partner, Air Nova does offer some discounts to Halifax and St. John. Call the local office at 892-1007 for more information.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

*Whenever possible, call ahead to make reservations and confirm information.*

Outpatients or loved ones visiting patients from out-of-province may also want to inquire at hotels about special **Hospital Rates**. Major hotel lines have these. They are usually subject to availability and require advanced reservations.

### **Out-of-Province Liaison Program**

The PEI government provides assistance to those who must travel out of province for medical treatment. Accommodation assistance is provided at certain insured locations for patients and essential escorts (those accompanying a child or disabled adult). It is necessary to get approval before you travel though emergency assistance is also available. In addition to the insured lodges noted, some funding may be available for accommodations and meals at centres outside of the Maritimes. Make reservations through the PEI Liaison Office. Information and applications are available from: PEI Liaison Office Toll Free at 1-866-232-3042.

**Halifax:** A map showing locations in Halifax is available from the PEI Division Office. The insured accommodation in Halifax for patients is the *Point Pleasant Lodge*, 1121 South Park Street (close to major hospitals). Companions are also welcome but must pay \$35.00 for Single rooms, \$50.00 for Double rooms. Cafeteria style dining room is available. Patients should contact the Liaison Nurse before booking rooms (see above). 902 421 1599

*The Lodge That Gives:* Cancer patients stay free of charge. One family member and/or support person is invited to accompany a patient at the Lodge for a daily rate of \$55.00 for their room and meals. If this fee poses a challenge for you, contact Supportive Care for a possible fee exemption. There is no charge for a parent or guardian staying with a

child, an escort required by a Bone Marrow Transplant patient, an ENT patient requiring help with tube feedings.

Relatives of hospitalised cancer patients are welcome to stay at the Lodge (maximum 2 persons) for a nightly rate of \$55.00, meals included. Single persons should be prepared to share a room with another person

The Lodge is located on South Street, close to most major hospitals. Those who qualify for free rooms must contact the PEI Division office to make arrangements. Others can call (902) 420-1849. Fax (902) 429-6563.

### **Moncton**

The insured accommodation for patients in Moncton is Mgr. Henri-Cormier Lodge, 333 Highfield St. (close to the oncology centre)- (506) 862-4010. Those requiring diagnostic evaluation, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, medical follow-up or 100km. or more from home can stay. Meals are available at the hospital cafeteria or in the lodge dining room. Small snacks are available in the lodge kitchen. Accommodations for patients and their medically required escorts are provided free by the Out-of Province Liaison Program (must be approved in advance). Companions are requested to pay for their own lunch and supper at a special rate.

Maison D'Accueil - Soeurs Notre Dame du Sacre Coeur, 231 Highfield St. (Rita Gallant) (506) 854-4529. \$20.00 Bed and breakfast.

Maison Kinsmen/Moncton Kinsmen House, 138 Cameron St.. (506)382-7520 before 4pm (506) 854-0957 after 4pm. \$25 bed with continental breakfast per person or \$30 for two.

Mme. Clemence & Robert Perron, 26 MacBeath Ave. (506) 854-3999. \$20.00 Bed and breakfast. Call ahead for reservations.

Emerentienne Richardson, 14 Crescent Gaston (506) 383-9516 - \$20 Bed and breakfast.

Nurses Residence, The Moncton Hospital, West Lane Entrance, 135 MacBeath Ave. (506) 857-5349. Single rooms available for patients and family. Rooms depend on availability, please call in advance. Small kitchen with fridge, kettle, toaster, and microwave available for guests. Also washer and dryer, T.V. lounge. Close to bus route. \$10 for a patient, \$10 for someone accompanying them or \$5 if using a cot in same room.

### **Saint John**

The insured accommodation for patients in Saint John is Saint John Regional Hospital Hostel (a section of the hospital). For patients only. Meals provided, small kitchen for snacks. Patients should make arrangements with the Out-of -Province Liaison Nurse.

Mrs. W.E. Burke, 96 Bedell Ave., (506) 648-1804. Bed and breakfast - \$15.00/ person.

The Garden House, c/o Diane Marks 28 Garden St., (506) 642-4619. . Bed and breakfast - \$35.00 double.

Maison Suzanne Cyr, 43 Sussex Drive, (506) 642-7088. Double room and breakfast - \$10.00/night/person. No smoking or alcohol.

University of New Brunswick Residence and Conference Services. Single rooms @ \$18.75. Double @ 35.65. Suites @ \$72.00 (plus \$5.00 + taxes for ea. additional person). 4 minute walk to hospital. Available May, June, July, August. Other months of the year depend on availability during school year. 506 648 5755 website: [www.unbsj.ca/resconf](http://www.unbsj.ca/resconf)

Sisters of Charity, 12 Corkery St., (506) 652-6747 or (506) 652-7743. Call before 7:30am or 5:00pm. Room and breakfast \$10.00.

### **Toronto**

Daffodil Lodge (Princess Margaret Hospital) 545 Jarvis St., Toronto (416) 413-7400 or for bookings call (416) 413-7402. Provides accommodation for patients who require treatment at the Princess Margaret or Sunnybrook Hospitals. If space is available family and friends may stay at cost of \$45 per night.

Sunnybrook Health Science Centre Hostel, 2075 Bayview Ave., North York (416) 480-4248. Five rooms are available for overnight accommodation of patients' relatives. When there is space, outpatients and other relatives may stay. No reservations - rooms provided on a first come, first-served basis. Since there are no bathrooms in the rooms, all patients must be fully ambulatory. Single plus roll-away bed @ \$47.70. Double @ \$63.60. Rooms come with telephone, TV, sink and clock radio.

Toronto Hospital University Health Network - Residence, 90 Gerrard St., Toronto (416) 351 1010

Outpatients and their families or families of inpatients may stay. Dormitory style rooms – private bedrooms and shared washrooms, laundry and kitchenette. Single rooms @ \$49.00 plus tax per night. Double rooms @ \$80.00 plus tax. \$25.00 deposit upon arrival.

### **Cancer Information Service**

Call toll-free **1-888-939-3333** 9am – 6pm, Monday to Friday, anywhere in Canada.

A service of the Canadian Cancer Society, trained specialists can help you with information on: **Prevention and early detection, All types of cancer, Cancer treatments, Drugs and clinical trials, Dealing with side effects, Complementary therapies, Cancer statistics, Emotional and financial support, Nutrition, local assistance available**

Anyone can call including cancer patients and their loved ones, the general public and healthcare professionals. (Locally the Canadian Cancer Society, PEI Division is located at 1 Rochford St., Suite #1, Charlottetown. Call 566-4007 (local) or Toll Free 1-866-566-4007. Cancer Society brochures and a small lending library of books and videos are available but most resources are available in the PEI Public Library system.)

**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT- Pownal House** (formerly Catholic Family Services)  
894-3515 - education programs as self-esteem and parenting.

**Community and Family Service of PEI** 892-2441 - Provides counselling, including grief counselling and family counselling. Fee is based on a sliding scale according to income and family size.

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that prices are subject to change without prior notice.