

Te mahi moni mō ngā rongoā.

Raising funds for medication

A guide for bowel cancer patients and their whānau.



At a glance...

- Some bowel cancer drugs are fully funded in NZ, and others are not.
- Cost-capped plans are available for some drugs, which partially covers the cost but not the administration fees.
- The cost of these drugs and associated fees means that, even with cost-capped plans, bowel cancer patients often have to find funding from other sources.

“Not all effective medication to fight bowel cancer is funded in NZ. Finding a way to fund these outside of Pharmac may be lifesaving.”

ALASDAIR PATRICK, BOWEL CANCER SPECIALIST

Your fundraising options

There are four main options available to bowel cancer patients who need assistance with funding medications:

1. Government benefits - WINZ can provide several benefits, including a Community Services Card, an Invalid's Benefit and travel assistance, so contact them as soon as possible. The Ministry of Health offers a wig subsidy, and ACC may be an option for funds if you've had a previous misdiagnosis, delayed diagnosis, or potential occupational exposure.

2. Insurance – if you have private health insurance or mortgage repayment insurance, check with your provider to see if your policy includes cancer care.

After a serious or terminal illness diagnosis, some life insurance and trauma cover policies allow you to claim a portion of that insurance to help pay for treatments.

3. Fundraising platforms - crowdfunding sites such as Givealittle are good platforms for personal fundraising.

4. Personal investments and assets - KiwiSaver will allow a withdrawal for serious health issues, or you can apply to your bank for a mortgage repayment holiday or a reverse mortgage. Other options include downsizing or selling other assets.

Each of these options depends on your personal situation and financial position.



Want to know more?

You'll find more detailed information on our website: bowelcancernz.org.nz > About bowel cancer > Treatment options > Unfunded drugs

Contact WINZ at www.workandincome.govt.nz



Helpful tip

Ask your pharmacist if you qualify for a Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card. You and your whānau need to have collected 20 subsidised prescription items in a year.



NEED SUPPORT?

Contact our bowel cancer support nurse:
Email: here4you@bowelcancernz.org.nz
Phone: 0800 BCNZ NURSE (226 968)

Join our private Facebook group:
bowelcancernz.org.nz > Support > Finding Support

CONTACT US

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