



How do I access a social worker?

Contact your local cancer centre and ask for a referral to social work:

Tertiary Cancer Centres

Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive
Cancer Centre (Calgary)
587-231-3570

Cross Cancer Institute
(Edmonton)
780-391-7664

Regional Cancer Centres

Grande Prairie Cancer Centre
825-412-4200

Jack Ady Cancer Centre
(Lethbridge)
403-388-6800

Margery E. Yuill Cancer Centre
(Medicine Hat)
403-529-8817

Central Alberta Cancer Centre
(Red Deer)
403-343-4526

Community Cancer Centres

Barrhead	780-305-3304
Bonnyville	780-826-3311
Bow Valley (Canmore)	403-493-4867
Camrose	780-679-2822
Drayton Valley	780-621-4888
Drumheller	403-820-7985
Fort McMurray	780-791-6217
High River	403-652-0139
Hinton	780-865-3333
Lloydminster	306-820-6144
Peace River	780-624-7593



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Email cancerpatienteducation@ahs.ca
for comments on this resource.



Information for
patients & families

Social Work



Psychosocial Oncology



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What is a social worker?

Social workers can help those with a cancer diagnosis and their caregiver(s) with important decisions, practical concerns, and emotional support. They work closely with you, your healthcare team, and community agencies to connect you to the services you need.

Social workers can help with:

- **Supportive counseling:** Helping explore coping strategies for managing stress or anxiety, adjusting to changes, cancer-related quality of life issues and grief and loss.
- **Personal affairs information:** Providing information to help with conversations around decision making and advanced care planning –for example Personal Directives.
- **Patient advocacy:** Supporting conversations with your healthcare team and community agencies.
- **Financial and health benefit supports:** Helping to navigate financial supports, medication coverage, services and community resources.
- **Resources for your medical appointments:** Providing information on accommodations, parking, travel and concerns related to accessing your appointments.

Do I need a doctor's referral?

No. You can call us directly, or sometimes your doctor or healthcare provider may refer you.

Do I have to be in treatment for my cancer to see a social worker?

No, these services are available before, during, and after treatment for anyone with a cancer diagnosis.

Do I have to pay to see a social worker?

No. There is no cost for social work programs or services. Social work is available in person at some cancer sites but available in all communities by phone or video call. Language translation services are available if needed.

What health and social programs can they help with?

- Alberta Blue Cross
- Alberta Adult Health Benefits
- Understanding Employer Short-term and Long-term Disability
- Employment Insurance Benefits: Sickness, Caregiver and Compassionate Care
- Canada Pension Plan: Disability
- Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)
- Alberta Seniors Benefits and Special Needs Assistance
- Seniors Pensions – Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income supplement
- Non-Insured Health Benefits for First Nations and Inuit
- Alberta Income Support
- Veteran Affairs
- Various Charitable Organizations



Other resources may be available at your centre. Talk with your social worker to find out more.

Cancer Centres in Alberta

