



## Work Capability Assessment – Taking the effects of cancer treatments into account

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Tell us what you think

January 2012



Easy Read

**DWP**

Department for  
Work and Pensions

# Important

## Green writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a **light blue** box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.

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# What this booklet is about

This booklet is part of our **consultation** about changing the **Work Capability Assessment** to make sure that more people who have cancer get the support they need.

## Consultation

This is when the government asks what people think about their plans, and for ideas about the best ways of doing things.

## Work Capability Assessment

This is when people talk to a health expert about their health and how it affects them. This helps us work out if someone should get the **Employment and Support Allowance**.

## Employment and Support Allowance

This is a benefit people can get if they do not have a job and they cannot work at all, or cannot work now but could work some time in the future.



# What we found out

Professor Malcolm Harrington and Macmillan Cancer Support looked at how the **Work Capability Assessment** deals with people who have cancer.

They found out that at the moment, some types of treatment for cancer are treated differently to others because they may not make the person as weak as other types of treatment.

This means that some people who have cancer do not get the help and support they need.



## Work Capability Assessment

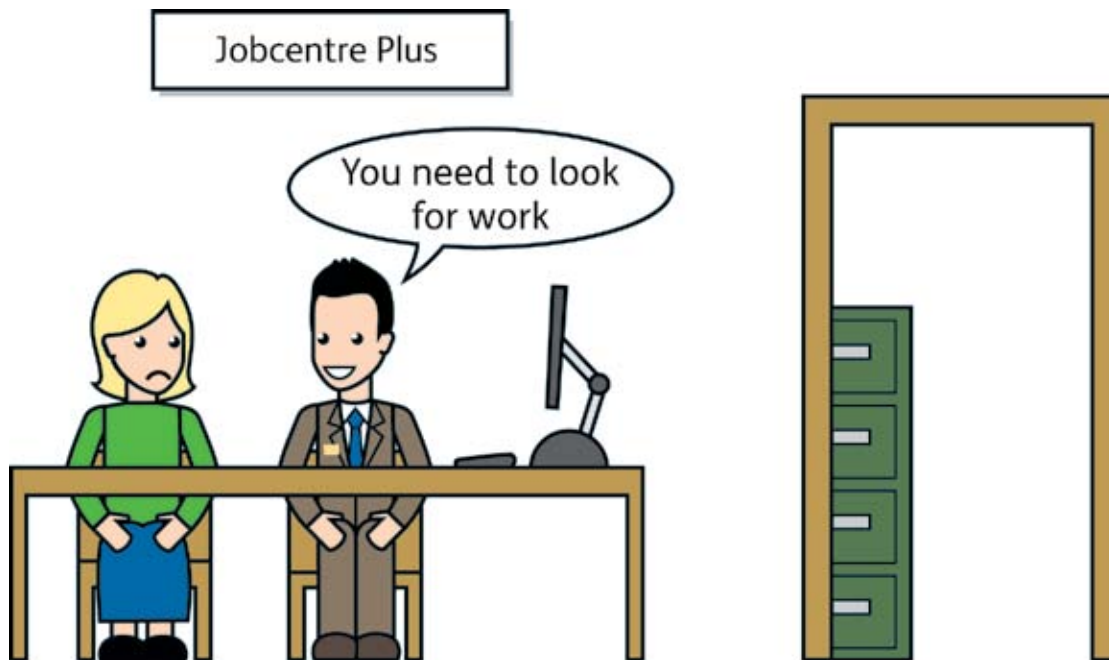
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Professor Malcolm Harrington and Macmillan Cancer Support say that people should not be treated differently just because of the type of treatment they are getting.

The government wants to make sure that people get the help and support they need. But at the moment some people who get treatment for cancer could be made to look for some kind of work instead of being made part of the **Support Group** of the **Employment and Support Allowance**.

### Support Group

This is a group of people who will not be expected to work but can get help to find work if they want it.



## The Support Group and work

For many people, an important part of their treatment and recovery from cancer is seeing that they will be able to carry on in work or that they will be able to go back to work.

We do not want to stop people from going back to work. So we have some ideas that could let more people get help from the **Support Group** of the **Employment and Support Allowance** and also let those people who can and want to do some work to keep working.



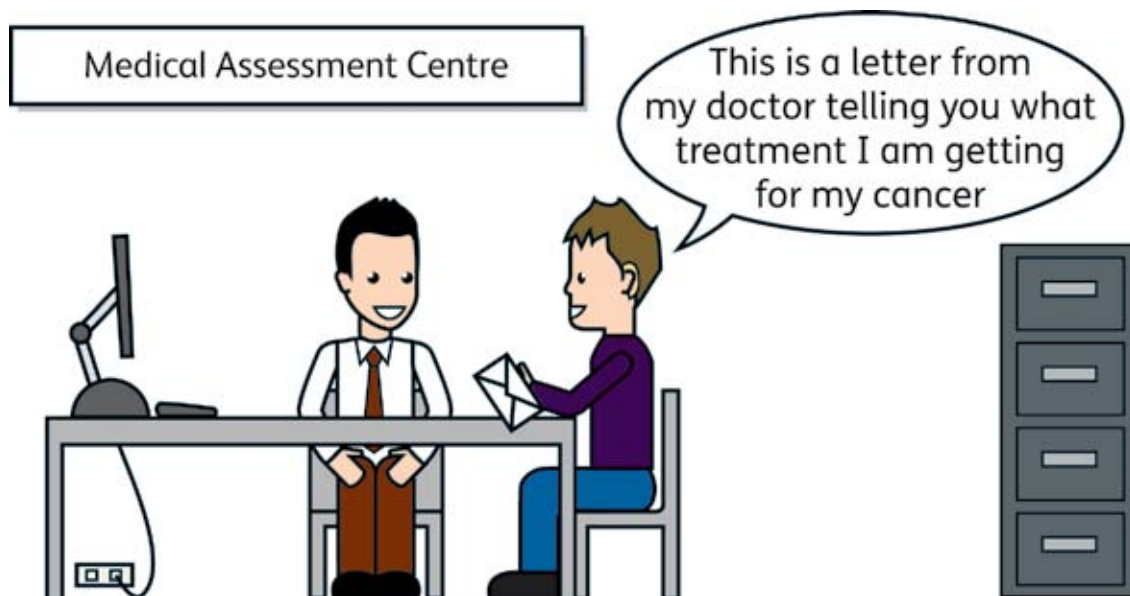
## Work Capability Assessment

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These ideas assume that people who are getting treatment for cancer should be put in the **Support Group** for the **Employment and Support Allowance**.

People should be able to join the **Support Group** for the **Employment and Support Allowance** if they get a letter from their doctor or a cancer specialist. The letter must say that they have cancer and what treatment they are getting.

If the person does not have a letter, the Department for Work and Pensions may be able to get the details from the person's doctor or cancer specialist.



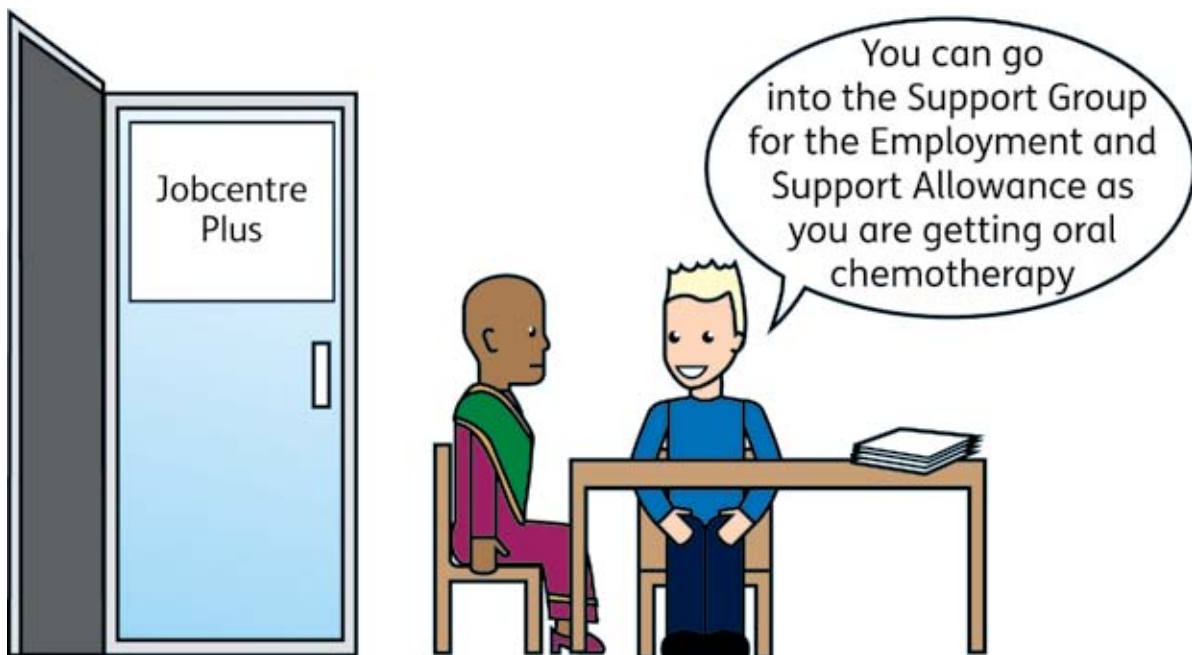


## About the government's ideas

The government has come up with ideas for making the way the **Work Capability Assessment** deals with people who have cancer better.

The changes we want to make include thinking about putting the following people into the **Support Group** for the **Employment and Support Allowance**.

- People who are waiting for, getting or recovering from oral chemotherapy. Except when they have been getting this treatment for more than 6 months.
- People who are waiting for, getting or recovering from combined chemo-irradiation.
- People who are waiting for, getting or recovering from radiotherapy in the head and neck, brain, lung, gastrointestinal or pelvic area.



## Work Capability Assessment

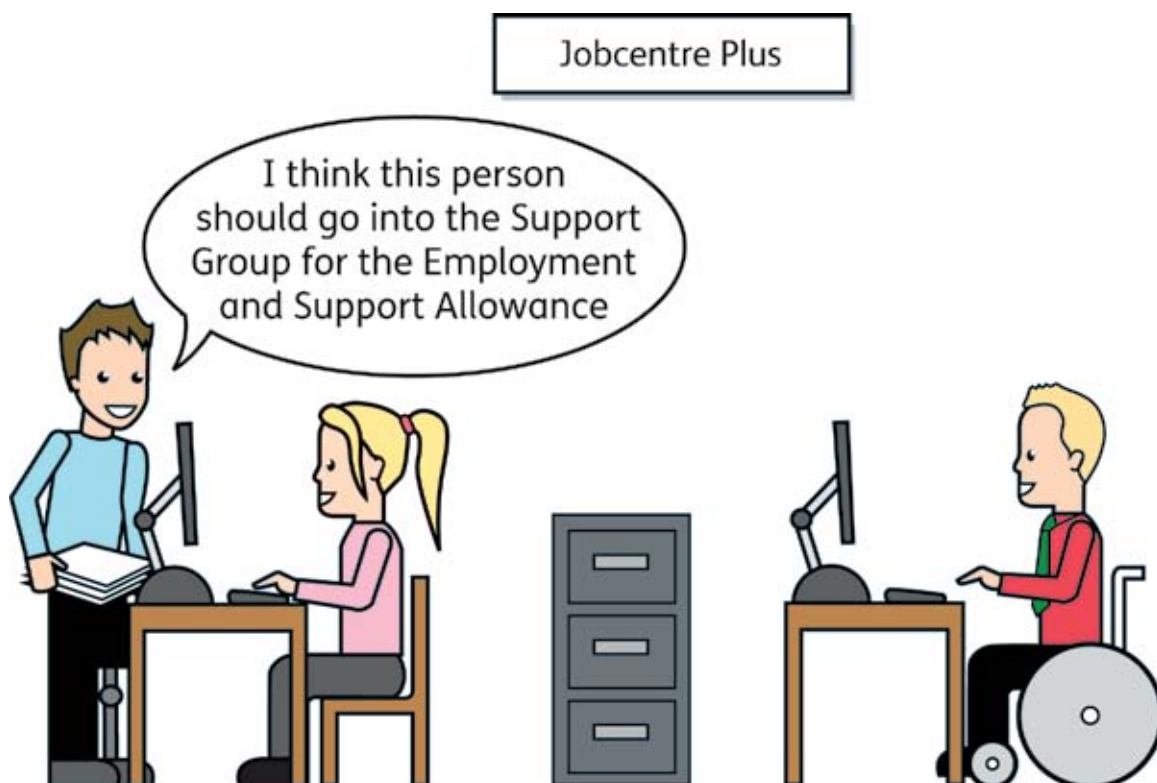
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We think that people who are waiting for, getting or recovering from these treatments should be in the **Support Group** for the **Employment and Support Allowance**. They would just need to provide information to prove the treatment, like a letter from a doctor or a cancer specialist.

Macmillan Cancer Support say that people who have these treatments should be put straight into the **Support Group** for the **Employment and Support Allowance**.

We think that most people should go into the **Support Group** for the **Employment and Support Allowance**. We think it is right to look at how cancer treatment affects each person.

We think that this will make sure that decisions are based on what each person can do.



## About this consultation

We would like to hear from everyone who is interested in our plans.

- Any person who has cancer or has had cancer and their families and carers.
- Doctors, nurses and cancer specialists.
- **Employers**, especially if they have supported workers during treatment for cancer.

### Employers

This is a person or company that pays other people to do work for them.

### About the questions

On the next few pages there are questions that we would like you to give us your answers to.

This **consultation** started on 16 December 2011 and will end on 9 March 2012.

Send your replies to

Work Capability Assessment Policy Team  
Floor 2, Section B  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Or you can email your reply to  
[WCA.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:WCA.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

### And finally, thank you

Thank you for taking the time to look at this booklet and taking part in the **consultation**.



















## Question 7

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

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