



Money Matters - Core and Educational Programs

Intended Audience

For all members including people living with cancer, family members and significant caregivers. By appointment, in person or by phone.

Program Description

Money Matters is a program designed to assist people living with cancer and their family members in managing finances related to changes in income and expenditures resulting from cancer diagnosis and treatment. The program, which involves a one-on-one session with a professional consultant, provides information on government income programs, drug compensation programs, community resources and other supports available to cancer patients and their families.

Benefits and Impact

- The case manager serves as advocate when necessary and arranges specialty clinics, such as financial, wills and tax clinics.
- Case manager(s) see Wellspring Calgary members through an initial consultation to finished applications, ensuring documents are properly executed and effectively managed.
- Discussion and consultation help mitigate the financial difficulties cancer can create.
- Members experience measurable relief allowing them to focus on other important aspects of their health and well-being.

What to Expect at a Session

Upon registration for the Money Matters program, Wellspring Calgary members and/or their loved ones will meet individually with a professional consultant with specialty training in cancer-related costs and financial issues. The case manager will then review the member's circumstances, assess their eligibility for income support programs, and provide information on application processes, eligibility criteria, timelines and payment amounts. Further support with regard to providing financial guidance, establishing external connections, and/or providing referrals information is also part of the Money Matters process.

“Currently I am struggling with chemo-brain which can be frustrating. It would be beneficial to have someone help me to understand the different programs available for financial assistance.”

“This is an important topic that is often overlooked. Thank you for considering the implementation of this program.”

What the Research Says:

The economic burden of wage loss attributable to cancer is significant in Canada. For new cancer episodes in 2009, the estimated wage loss for patients, caregivers, and parents from analysis of direct surveys was \$3.18 billion, and from analysis of the CCHS, it was \$2.95 billion for immediate members of a household (Hopkins, R. B., Goeree, R., & Longo, C. J. (2010). Estimating the national wage loss from cancer in Canada. *Current Oncology* 17(2), 40-49).

60% of respondents indicated their income decreased in the 12 months following their diagnosis (Return to Work Concerns Faced by People Dealing with Cancer and Caregivers, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, April 2012).

Program Frequency:

By individual appointment
Winter, spring/summer, fall

