

European Cancer Patient Coalition: Survey on Social Disparities

Although health may not be one of the European Union competencies, social issues and discrimination are.

As announced at the ECPC Annual Congress 2018, the European Cancer Patient Coalition is leading an EU-level campaign towards greater equality in social and employment matters related to cancer care. We would like to invite you to join us and take this opportunity to help us achieve real change in securing social rights across the European Union for all people affected by cancer: those undergoing acute treatment, the survivors and those with advanced and metastatic cancers, including people who care for them – their carers.

We need to build a better picture of social disparities in Europe. We can do so by building our knowledge on the current state of a range of social and employment matters in each Member State. It will enable the European Cancer Patient Coalition, to request commitment from the newly constituted 9th European Parliament, and to request other EU institutions as well, to put the needs of people with cancer high on the European agenda.

The findings of this survey will help us to create a better picture of social disparities that exist in Europe, provide concrete examples of best and worst practices and enable us to create a clearer link between cancer patients' rights and the employment rights.

We kindly ask you to take the time to answer the following questions according to your real-life experience or professional knowledge and do not hesitate to add any further comments or requests that you think are important.

Please note: indicate a clear reference to any law or regulatory act wherever applicable. Provide contact information, if available, of a person in your organisation we could refer to for any clarification.

* 1. *Contact Information*

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Contact Person Name | <input type="text"/> |
| Organisation | <input type="text"/> |
| Role in the organisation | <input type="text"/> |
| Country | <input type="text"/> |
| Contact Person Email | <input type="text"/> |

Chapter A: After the diagnosis

* 2. Can a patient undergo a procedure for the assessment of a disability status?

Yes

No

Please name the competent authority

3. Is there a specific classification of disability caused by cancer (including side effects of treatment) or do general provisions apply? Please indicate which are the relevant regulation.

4. How long does the assessment procedure usually take?

5. If applicable, who is eligible to initiate the procedure?

Doctors

Patients

Others

6. Is the disability assessment related to the duration of the disease, or is it related to the duration and the type of treatment?

7. Does the disability assessment depend on the employment status?

Yes

No

Comment

8. What type or level of disability certification qualifies for the entitlement to disability or partial inability benefits (please specify, referring also to the following n.9)?

9. Does the disability or partial inability certification entitle the person with disability to receive social benefits such as:

- Financial assistance
- Pension credits
- Tax exemptions or reductions
- Sick-leave (full-day or partial) (see also Chapter B)
- Other (please provide more details)

10. Does the disability or partial inability certification entitle a family member or a carer to social benefits such as:

- Financial assistance
- Pension credits
- Tax exemptions or reductions
- Sick-leave (full-day or partial) (see also Chapter B)
- Other (please provide more details)

Chapter B: Employment Issues

11. Is the cancer patient in employment at the time of diagnosis, entitled to paid sick-leave:

- Due to sickness, as long as ... (Please specify)
- For therapy
- Unpaid leave maintaining the employment relation
- Benefit from holidays donated by co-workers
- Other (please provide more details)

Please provide more details

12. Does the sick pay entitlement differ if the person with cancer is employed in private or public sector?

- Yes
- No

Please specify

13. Is the cancer patient in full-time higher education at the time of diagnosis entitled to paid sick-leave, or other legal protections?

- Yes
- No

Please specify

14. If a person in employment is assisting a family member or a person affected by cancer, are they entitled to any of the below (please provide more details):

- Paid leave - hours, days (or longer)
- Unpaid leave - hours, days (or longer)
- Subject to a disability assessment of the cancer patient - hours, days (or longer)
- Benefit from holidays donated by co-workers
- Other benefit (Please provide more details)

Please provide more details

15. If a person with cancer is in employment, are they entitled to the flexibility to make the necessary adjustments to their working conditions/responsibilities due to a limited performance capability and/or treatment needs?

- Part-time work
- Teleworking or Smart Working
- Rehabilitation, training or re-qualification, easing the return to work
- Protection against the change of the primary site/location of work
- Right to choose the primary site/location of work
- Exemption from heavy work conditions or night work
- Protection against unfair dismissal
- Other (Please provide more details)

16. Do legal protections exist to protect persons with cancer who are in employment from unfair dismissal?

- Yes
- No

Please specify

17. Is a patient after disability assessment, or a cancer survivor, entitled to facilitated employment assistance provided by law?

Yes

No

Please specify

18. Do any legally established incentives exist for employers to encourage and facilitate the employment of people with cancer?

Yes

No

Please specify

19. If a person in employment is caring for a cancer patient (cancer carer), are they entitled to any job flexibility in order to adjust working conditions and facilitate the needs of caring?

Part-time

Teleworking or Smart Working

Protection against the change of the primary site/location of work

Right to choose the primary site/location of work

Exemption from heavy work conditions or night work

Other

Chapter C: Self-employed workers

20. When a self-employed person faces a cancer diagnosis and cannot continue their employment activity, are they entitled to (apart from private and voluntary insurance):

- An indemnity *una tantum**
- An indemnity for a short period of inactivity (Please specify how long?)
- An indemnity for a long period of inactivity
- Exemption from taxation on income
- Other (Please provide more details)

Please provide more details

21. When a self-employed person reduces their employment activity in order to take care of a family member or another person affected by cancer, are they entitled to (apart from private and voluntary insurance) :

- An indemnity *una tantum**
- An indemnity for a short period of inactivity (Please specify how long in the Comment Box)
- An indemnity for a long period of inactivity
- Exemption from taxation on income
- Other (Please specify in the Comment Box)

Comment

**una tantum* = one-off

Chapter D: Pension

Taking into consideration that cancer patients and/or their carers have reduced time in active employment, they are at risk of a reduction of pension credits at the age of retirement.

* 22. Is a cancer survivor entitled to pension benefits in compensation for the time spent out of work and to what extent?

Yes

No

Please specify

Pension (patient)

23. Is the above compensation subject to a disability condition assessment?

Yes

No

Pension (carer)

* 24. Is the carer of a cancer patient entitled to pension benefits in compensation of the time spent out of work and to what extent?

Yes

No

Please specify

25. Is the above compensation subject to a certification of a severe disability condition of the person for whom care was provided?

Yes

No

Comment

Chapter E: Insurance / Loans / Right to be forgotten

26. Can a cancer survivor subscribe to a**Health** insurance policy?

- Yes Subject to coverage restrictions
- No, never Subject to premium rise
- No, until _____ years free of recurrence (Please provide more details) Other (Please provide more details)

Please provide more details

27. Can a cancer survivor subscribe to a**Life** Insurance (independently or concluded with mortgage) policy?

- Yes Subject to coverage restrictions
- No, never Subject to premium rise
- No, until _____ years free of recurrence (Please provide more details) Other (Please provide more details)

Please provide more details

28. Can a cancer survivor obtain a**long-term loan** or **mortgage** under the same conditions as any other person?

- Yes At an interest rate increased as of ... (Please provide more details)
- No, never Subject to a sponsor or guarantor
- No, until _____ years free of recurrence (Please provide more details) Other (Please provide more details)
- Subject to special insurance restrictions

Please provide more details

29. Can a cancer survivor obtain a **lease agreement** under the same conditions as any other person?

- Yes
- No, never
- No, until _____ years free of recurrence (Please provide more details)
- Subject to special insurance restrictions
- At an interest rate increased as of ... (Please provide more details)
- Subject to a sponsor or guarantor
- Other (Please provide more details)

Please provide more details

30. Does any existing law define a term of years, after which a person is not required to declare the fact of being a cancer survivor? **(Right to be forgotten)**

- In contracting with a bank
- In contracting with an insurance company
- In the employment relationships
- Other (Please provide more details)

Conclusions

31. If there is any other discriminating factor or socio-economic problem towards which you think a legal provision should be introduced, please indicate below

32. Do any legal provisions exist to protect the rights of parents (or other caregivers) of children who are cancer patients (Please specify)?

Yes

No

Please specify

33. Please indicate any further legal provision in favour of cancer patients or carers to be considered a useful model of "best practice" for other countries