

The Cancer Support Team is a team of psychologists and social workers providing specialist psychological and social support to people and their whānau accessing cancer-related services across the 3DHBs (CCDHB, HVDHB & WaiDHB).

Criteria 1: (must meet all criteria)

- Patient is 16+ years, or being treated under adult services
- Is a patient of Capital & Coast CDHB, Hutt Valley DHB or Wairarapa DHB
- Has a significant psychological or social need that is impacting on their ability to access diagnostics or treatment; or where their diagnosis/treatment is significantly impacting on their social, cultural, emotional, or family wellbeing

Criteria 2: (one of these criteria must apply)

- Patient has high suspicion of cancer
- Patient has a new diagnosis (or recurrence) of cancer
- Patient is currently receiving DHB-provided treatment for cancer

Criteria 3: (one or more of these criteria should apply)

- Maori or Pacific Island background
- Has a complex diagnosis or complex treatment programme
- Lives in a rural or isolated community
- Additional physical or mental health concerns
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) (i.e., migrants and refugees from Asian, Middle Eastern and African backgrounds)

NB: Patients who do not meet these criteria can still be referred to their DHB Social Work department.

Exclusions:

- We are a community-based service; therefore we do not see inpatients unless they are already known to our team.
- We are not an acute service. If there are any immediate patient concerns, these need to be shared with the appropriate acute services (e.g., mental health services, social work department).
- We are unable to provide a service to people who are post-treatment with needs relating to living with cancer or survivorship.
- We are not involved in end of life care; however, we may support people where the intent of treatment is palliative.

If you are unsure whether your patient meets the service criteria or would like to talk about the referral further, you can contact any member of the Cancer Support Team.