

Needs Assessment Tool for Carers of People with Advanced Cancer (NAT-C)

What is the NAT-C about?

Being a carer for someone with advanced cancer is important. It can also be demanding and affect your own health and well-being. GPs have knowledge and experience to help carers with their own health problems. The NAT-C can help you to identify any concerns that you may have so that your GP may be able to discuss them with you. Your GP cares about your health and well-being.

How does the NAT-C work?

For you, the NAT-C helps to name the issues which are important to you about your own health and well-being. Your GP can help you do this. It also helps you to note which of these you would like to discuss with your GP, and whether you would like to do this today or at another time. For you and your GP, the NAT-C is like a conversation-starter, to help guide what you discuss today. It is also like a planner, to help improve and maintain your own health.

How are my health concerns protected?

Your privacy is important, and what you discuss with your GP is confidential. Without your permission, it will not be discussed with anyone else, including the person that you are caring for.

How can I help my GP to deal with my concerns?

- Complete the NAT-C before you see the GP, so that they have a chance to read it before seeing you.
- It will be helpful if you book a long appointment with the GP.
- If there are several issues which you would like to discuss soon, your GP might suggest that you make a further appointment to continue on from today's visit.

Information for your GP

- The NAT-C lists the common concerns of carers regarding their health and well-being.
- The completed NAT-C identifies your patient's concerns about the person's health and well-being.
- It also ranks the relative importance of these concerns, and indicates when the patient would like to discuss them - that may not necessarily be today.
- It can be completed by the patient, or with your help.
- You may wish to flag with the patient any issues of concern that they may not wish to discuss.
- If your patient identifies several concerns to discuss today, you may wish to discuss those of most importance to the patient, and suggest another appointment to complete the rest.

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The topics below are often a concern for people close to someone with a chronic condition.

Please rate how concerned you are NOW about each issue,

by selecting your level of concern: **None, Some, A lot**

Then MARK IN THE COLUMNS ON THE RIGHT the topics you want to discuss with the GP, nurse or other health provider - either now or at some stage in the future.

Date _____ Name _____

Information issues	Level of Concern			Helpful to discuss with my GP, nurse or health provider	
	None	Some	A lot	Now	Later
1. Finding general information about cancer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Finding specific information to give to the ill person	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. What to expect during the illness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. How to plan for the unexpected things relating to the illness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. How to plan for my future	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Ways to care for the person at home, e.g. techniques or equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. Managing financial matters, e.g. getting Centrelink allowances and other benefits	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. Legal matters, e.g. preparing or updating a will	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. Now knowing who to go to with my questions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. My ability to give information to the ill person	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Practical Issues					
11. My ability to look after myself	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12. My ability to look after the ill person	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13. My medical conditions limit my ability to do things I have to do	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
14. The ill person's symptoms limit their ability to function	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15. The ill person is having difficulty looking after themselves	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16. My skills limit what I want to do for the ill person	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17. Other issues limit my ability to do what I want to do	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Personal health and well-being issues	Level of Concern			Helpful to discuss with my GP, nurse or health provider	
	None	Some	A lot	Now	Later
18. My own physical health is a concern	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19. I have problems with tiredness or lack of energy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20. Being a cancer caregiver impacts on my choices	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
21. Being a cancer caregiver impacts on my happiness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
22. Being a cancer caregiver impacts on my self-confidence	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Relationship issues					
23. I have problems in close/intimate relationships with the ill person	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
24. I have problems in other relationships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
25. My ability to communicate with the ill person is limited	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
26. My ability to communicate with others is limited	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
27. The ill person has problems in close/intimate relationships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
28. The ill person has problems in other relationships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
29. The ill person has limited ability to communicate with others	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Meaning issues					
30. The illness and its effects are challenging my beliefs and values	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
31. The illness and its effects are challenging the ill person's beliefs and values	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
32. The illness and its effects are challenging because of my culture, or the person's culture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Are there other types of concerns? Please list here.					

Adapted with permission from Mitchell G, Girgis A, Jiwa M, Sibbritt D, Burrridge L. The University of Queensland 2012.