



## **Action Mesothelioma Day** **1<sup>st</sup> Friday in July Each Year**

For several years (decades in some cases), a variety of patient and asbestos awareness groups have been working tirelessly to improve services, treatment and outcomes for people affected by Mesothelioma and to raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos.

Their efforts led the British Lung Foundation to host a Mesothelioma Summit in March 2005. The summit provided a vital platform for interested groups, organisations and individuals to discuss Mesothelioma priorities and engage with the political agenda. These priorities were written down and are known as the Mesothelioma Charter.

### **Mesothelioma Charter**

#### **Mesothelioma patients and their families have a right to:**

1. a speedy and accurate diagnosis, supported by a Multi Disciplinary Team discussion.
2. good quality information from a variety of sources available in different media and languages
3. support of a suitably qualified nurse and other Multi Disciplinary Team members throughout their illness
4. be considered for the best possible treatments available with the support and input of a Multi Disciplinary Team
5. have up-to-date advice on benefits and help in applying for them, and receive prompt payment of benefits
6. have legal advice and guidance from a firm of solicitors experienced in mesothelioma claims
7. guidance on end of life decisions and care at home
8. provision of a consistent nationwide service from coroners using a clear and open process with a maximum case length of three months.

#### **And call upon the Government to:**

9. have mesothelioma made a national priority by the Cancer Tsar
10. fund good quality research, alongside other national bodies, on mesothelioma with a view to improving diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for patients



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11. support the production of clinical guidelines on the best practice of diagnosis and management of mesothelioma
12. ensure the Health and Safety Executive vigorously enforce existing regulations on asbestos

**And call upon all employers to:**

13. prevent future exposure to asbestos by providing a safe working environment with all necessary equipment to protect employees
14. work with unions and individuals to ensure enforcement of current regulations to safeguard all employees.
15. identify all asbestos in their properties and organise its safe removal where practical or necessary when work is being carried out.

The charter was presented to No 10 Downing Street as part of the first ever Action Mesothelioma Day in 2006. Since then each year one day - the first Friday in July, is set aside for individuals, groups and organisations to work in partnership to focus on the content of the Mesothelioma Charter. Up and down the country Asbestos Victims Support Groups unite to have one voice. They organise material and events designed to create maximum impact and influence. Mesothelioma UK prepares an Action Mesothelioma Update Newsletter that is circulated to all those interested for two months before and one month after Action Mesothelioma Day.

For further information about running or getting involved in an Action Mesothelioma Day event contact Mesothelioma UK or your local asbestos support group (details available from Mesothelioma UK).

**MESOTHELIOMA UK PROVIDES SPECIALIST, IMPARTIAL, UP TO DATE SUPPORT AND INFORMATION**

This booklet has been prepared for Mesothelioma UK by the Mesothelioma Nurse Action Team:-

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Date: June 2010

Download Mesothelioma UK information from [www.mesothelioma.uk.com](http://www.mesothelioma.uk.com) or to request a copy Tel: 0800 169 2409.

To sponsor or donate to Mesothelioma UK contact:

The Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust:-

[Mesothelioma.ukcharity@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:Mesothelioma.ukcharity@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

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