

MESOTHELIOMA UK

National Macmillan Mesothelioma Resource Centre

Patient & Carer Newsletter

Issue 4 – October 2008

Welcome to Issue 4 of the Patient & Carer Newsletter.

The 3rd Mesothelioma UK Patient and Carer Day supported by a grant from the June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund was held in Leeds on 4th October.

The day is for patients and their carers, relatives and friends. This year there were 145 attendees – of these 100 were patients, carers and relatives. The feedback has been very positive and Mesothelioma UK hopes to build on this in the future.

I would like to thank Debbie Brewer who has again written a report of the day (as she also did in 2007). Much appreciated.

**Best wishes,
Liz Darlison
Consultant Nurse
Mesothelioma UK**

Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust

**Registered Charity No 1126083
Registered on 26 September 2008**

The Charitable Trust exists to raise funds and provide financial support to the National Macmillan Mesothelioma Resource Centre (known as Mesothelioma UK) and to other initiatives to promote and protect the health of sufferers of mesothelioma.

You can contact the Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust on 0800 169 2409 or email mesothelioma.ukcharity@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

If you would like to make a donation to Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust please make cheques payable to "Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust" and forward to:-
Dawn Mckinley - Operational Manager
Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust
Hospital Management Offices
Glenfield Hospital
Leicester
LE3 9QP

Donations received will help Mesothelioma UK to provide information to patients with Mesothelioma and their carers and relatives.

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If you would like to be removed from (or added to) the mailing list, please call the Helpline or complete the details below and forward to:-
Mesothelioma UK, Hospital Management Offices, Glenfield Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester, LE3 9QP

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Name:

Address or Email Address:

Helpline: 0800 169 2409

Fax: 0116 2502810

Email: mesothelioma.uk@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Website: www.mesothelioma.uk.com

Patient & Carer Day 2008 – By Debbie Brewer



My name is Debbie Brewer. On 13th November 2006 I was diagnosed with Mesothelioma. I was born in 1959 and am the eldest of four daughters. I believe I was exposed to Asbestos through my father's work clothes. My father, Phillip Northmore, worked for the MoD in Plymouth between 1963 and 1966. He was a lagger and would be in close contact with asbestos as his job would mean he would have to scrape asbestos from pipes.

Picture Jill Morrell (BLF), Myself and Kimberley Stubbs (June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund)

The event opened at 9:45am with Helen Clayson welcoming everyone to the meeting. Helen also made all the speakers aware of her watchful eye being on the clock. She also advised that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the audience was made up of patients and carers and their families. Helen is the medical director at the Hospice of St Mary of Furness in Cumbria. She introduced Kate Hill as the first speaker.

Kate Hill - Trustee of June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund

Kate advised that the research fund had been active for 10 - 11 years and had raised £500,000 towards research. She said the fund had also called for a global ban on asbestos. She introduced Kimberley Stubbs and Russell Hancock who are June's Children and are also trustees at the research fund.

John Edwards - Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield

TREATMENT FOR MESOTHELIOMA

Mr Edward's explained what Mesothelioma was and how it progressed and affected the patient. He also told how there was knowledge of the dangers of asbestos 100 years ago. It even goes back to Greek times when the slaves who worked in asbestos mines were not bought as there was a history of lung ailments. The Greeks knew they didn't live very long. Mr Edwards also talked about treatment options. Surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. He also talked about the trials and how they were done.

PHASE ONE - Is the treatment safe?

PHASE TWO - Does it work?

PHASE THREE - Is it better than any new or existing drugs?

He said that patients should consider trials as ...

"we stand on the shoulders of patients that came before us"

Which means it isn't just the patient who could benefit, it could benefit future patients. The benefits of being part of a trial are:

- * New non standard treatment.
- * Support teams closely monitor patient.
- * First to benefit and benefits future patients.
- * Hospital visits are more frequent.

He pointed out that compared to some cancers that have over 4000 trials, Mesothelioma has only had 9.

Trials available and future trials are:

- * Alimta and Cisplatin V Cisplatin alone.
- * Radiotherapy - to determine if nodules are stopped from growing at the wound site after a VATs op.

Photodynamic therapy didn't work.

No phase three trials have been done to date.

Symptom Control

VATs (Video assisted thoracoscopy) Talc Pleurodesis.

Debulk the tumour mass

Improve breathing

EPP (Extra Pleural Pneumectomy)

Removing the lung as long as the lymph nodes aren't affected. This is a very big operation and the patient has to be in very good health. 10% of patients are selected very carefully. 6% suffer fatal complications and 50% suffer complications. Mr Edwards asked "should it be performed"? This is the question being investigated by the MARS trial. As yet there have not been a phase three trials and surgery is only available in certain parts of the country.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- * Take part in trials.
- * Ask for access to trials.
- * What are the opinions of centres of experience?
- * Is there a specialist Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) in the local hospital?
- * Are you prepared or well enough to travel?
- * Promote the trials.

Mr Edwards said what all Mesothelioma patients say, "Patients don't want money, they want their lives back". He said more money needs to be put into research for Mesothelioma and advised that it isn't just the UK but other countries. 300,000 tons of asbestos had been shipped to India.

Dr Jeremy Steele - Consultant in Oncology, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London and Chair of Mesothelioma UK CLINICAL RESEARCH FOR MESOTHELIOMA

Dr Steele explained what asbestos was. He showed pictures and explained that it was a rock, woven and milled into powder. In the developing world, Bombay in particular, people still lived in asbestos fibre board houses.

Why does it cause cancer?

Fibres are breathed in and sit in the lung. The body tries to remove it, the fibre is too big for the cells to break down and too small to be coughed up. He equated it to having a splinter in the finger. The area affected becomes inflamed. Cytokines respond to the disease and try to heal and repair the body. This makes things worse as the cells start to turn to cancer. It also changes the DNA in the body.

Attitudes have changed towards Mesothelioma, PET scanning is done which is a sugar based dye which shows up the cancer cells on the scan. Cancer cells get very excited with sugar.

Again Dr Steele advised that there needs to be more funding into researching this disease.

He said there should be a national tissue bank which would store biopsy tissue for future research. Australia has a AU\$2,200,000 budget for research into Mesothelioma and the UK needs to follow this. Development of drugs that reverse the asbestos damage and find what makes the cancer grow.

There should be a national asbestos disease research centre and a national programme of clinical trials.

It was so good to hear 2 Dr's who want the best for their patients and are prepared to head the fight.



Picture Me with Diane from HASAG

Geraldine Coombs - Solicitor OBTAINING COMPENSATION

Geraldine talked about legal rights and compensation for Mesothelioma victims. She said there were specialist judges to evaluate claims. The sufferer should have the following information:

- * Work history to identify exposure
- * Work information to trace the company/insurers
- * Detailed witness statements
- * Inland Revenue will have history of employment (1961 onwards)

She talked about people who had notebooks containing asbestos sheets written in the orders. If the company has gone out of business, it can be possible to track down the insurers. Put out appeals to witnesses/employees who may have worked for the company. This can be done through newspaper adverts.

The USA has a trust (Manville) for claimants – ask your solicitor about this trust. If the person dies before the claim has gone through, the widow/child can carry on. Some solicitors have a "no cost to you" service. Proving the claim is the most important so the more information available, the better. If you are self employed, there is no company to sue.

PATIENTS' EXPERIENCE

David Garrod

David is 74 years old and doesn't look it. He talked about how he was diagnosed in August 2004 with a tumour in his abdomen. He was given 12 months to live. He had 6 treatments of Alimta between October 2004 and February 2005. He has a factor AF2 treatment in Germany which is for maturing cells to fight the cancer and takes Mistletoe 3 times a week. His wife does it as he is squeamish. His GP calls him his "miracle man".

I was very impressed with David especially as we were both taking the mistletoe and going to Germany for treatment.

Debbie Brewer

I spoke about my experiences. As Helen says, ME-sothelioma it was all about me.

I am not going to go into detail it as it is all on the site – <http://www.mesothelioma-and-me.com>

I did get a lot of feedback as I had my good result from Germany (33%)

Tony Whitston - Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group, Representative Asbestos Support Groups Forum

OVERVIEW OF BENEFITS FOR MESOTHELIOMA

Tony talked about the new lump sum payments for mesothelioma sufferers, which now guarantees a government lump sum payment to all mesothelioma sufferers (see below). He talked about the DLA and AA payments. He said that Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, a no-fault compensation payment, is used as income replacement and this shouldn't happen. He asked for the DWP to follow the Barrow jobcentre system for applying for Constant Attendance Allowance and their practice of reminding mesothelioma sufferers to claim this allowance.

The link below has more information.

<http://www.benefitsnow.co.uk/industrial/constant.asp>

Another allowance is Exceptionally Severe Disablement allowance which you can get if you receive one of the two higher levels of the CAA benefit above. The link below will detail more information.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/db1/esda.asp>

Carers Allowance overlaps with other benefits so it is important to get advice before claiming this allowance. More info below.

<http://www.carersuk.org/Information/Financialhelp/CarersAllowance>

Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme

*12 months to claim from date of diagnosis (For the first year the 12-month rule will not apply)

*12 months for dependents to claim from date of death.

*Circumstances may allow claims after the dates depending on information.

*USA trust fund payments can cause problems.

*The new scheme has removed the right of T&N mesothelioma sufferers to receive both a lump sum and T&N Fund payments, which they used to receive prior to the scheme.

Jill Morrell - Head of Public Affairs - British Lung Foundation

CAMPAIGNING FOR MESOTHELIOMA

Jill advised that BLF have 70 employees, there is a £5-6 million income each year. They work for anyone affected by lung disease. They support patients, raise awareness and campaign for changes. They fund respiratory nurses and have a national helpline. £1 million is spent on research and mesothelioma research has been funded by them at a cost of £415,000 which was used for a cancer vaccine and for more information about Alimta. Lung disease is a low priority for the government as it has the stigma of smoking attached to it. They are committed to making a difference and have successfully campaigned for the Mesothelioma Charter. There is a national day in February, Action Mesothelioma Day. If there are any comments, email them to campaigning@BLF.UK.org.

A cheque was presented to the June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund by Susan who lost her husband, Alan to Mesothelioma. Her family decided to do the Jane Thomlinson Leeds run and raised £1,260. This was presented to Kimberley and Russell, June's children and trustees of the fund.

Michael Lees - Author of the report "Asbestos in Schools"

Michael's wife, Gina had Mesothelioma and has since passed away. She was a primary school teacher and was exposed to asbestos in various schools over the course of her thirty year teaching career. Gina was 51 years old when she died 8 years ago.

Michael explained that asbestos was extensively used in school buildings between 1945 and 1975, although any school built or refurbished before 2000 could contain asbestos.

Michael talked about the different types of asbestos:

*Chrysotile-causes Mesothelioma

*Amosite- 100 times more dangerous

*Crocidolite- 500 times more dangerous.

*There is no known threshold below which there is no risk

*Wherever air can pass then asbestos fibres can pass just as readily, so when asbestos fibres are released in schools they can filter through any gap in the walls, structural columns or between the ceiling tiles.

*6,600 fibres are released with each insertion and removal of a drawing pin in asbestos insulating board.

The government says it is safer to leave asbestos in schools so long as it is in good condition and not likely to be disturbed. The problem however is that asbestos material that appeared to be in good condition, and also hidden asbestos have been shown to release fibres from common everyday classroom activities, and this was only identified when air tests were carried out. As air tests are infrequently carried out in schools, the authorities have no idea whether or not asbestos fibres are being released, and no idea whether the asbestos is in good condition.

Some head teachers have no knowledge of the dangers of asbestos which was underlined at the trial of a headmaster who stated that it was a foreign language to him.

21 teachers and lecturers died of mesothelioma between 1980 and 1985 and this is climbing rapidly, with 92 dying in the period 2001 to 2005.

In the consultation for the 2002 Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations the Department for Education argued that commissioning asbestos surveys may provoke unnecessary panic.

Michael disagreed, and said that it was important that surveys are carried out otherwise the asbestos cannot be managed. It is equally important that parents and staff are made aware of the presence of asbestos in their schools, if for no other reason than it has proved to be a very good system of self regulation. Practice has shown that parents do not over react and neither do the children.

Michael wants:

*No more secrecy. Instead the Government should adopt a policy of openness.

*All schools to have a thorough asbestos survey.

*A nationwide audit of asbestos in schools.

*All staff and school governors to be trained in asbestos matters.

*Specific asbestos guidance to be written for schools.

*The campaign to improve the asbestos management in schools to be reinstated.

*Phased removal of asbestos from all schools, with the worst asbestos being removed first.

*If parents wish to know whether their child's school contains asbestos then they can write to the school authorities asking for copies of the asbestos survey and management plan. If that request is refused then they can ask under the Freedom of Information act, although regrettably the act does not apply to independent schools.

Website details: www.asbestosexposureschools.co.uk

www.schoolasbestosaction.co.uk

Helen Clayton

UNDERSTANDING BREATHLESSNESS AND PAIN IN MESOTHELIOMA

Helen talked about the limbic system which displays and controls emotion. It is activated by breathlessness.

To a sufferer, breathlessness means a threat to life, suffocating even death.

Medical management would be to:-

*Remove fluid and prevent reoccurrence. To maximise the lung function with medication and exercise.

*Reduce the tumour bulk in some cases.

*Reduce perception of fluid by using morphine which reduces affects on stretch receptors. It tricks the brain into thinking there is no shortness of breath.

*Oxygen is only of value when oxygen is low

There should be an individual management plan and rehabilitation. Complementary and creative therapies can be used.

*Involve carers and family members and explain how to assist

*A fan will reduce breathlessness because of the receptors in the face, hand held are better.

Stimulation of these nerve receptors sends signals to the brain.

*Pain, the tumour is highly inflammatory and is a frequently complex pain. Seeking expert help is advised.

What's ahead ...

*Nasal Morphine

*heat patches/pressure sensitive packs

"It's not just about pills"

Linda Reinstein - Executive and co-founder of Asbestos disease awareness organisation
ASBESTOS – THE GLOBAL ISSUE AND DEVELOPING A MATRIX OF CARE

I missed some of Linda's talk as I was being interviewed by a radio reporter. I caught some of it. Linda had lost her husband and was quite emotional but talked with dignity and pride about him. Her message was "don't do what I did" as she didn't have any help as a carer when he was ill and suffered for it. She was a lovely lady who had travelled from America to be at the meeting.

Natalie Doyle - Nurse Consultant, Rehabilitation, Royal Marsden Hospital, London
HOW TO KEEP CONTROL

Mesothelioma is a whole new career, fitting in more time with friends and family as they call and want to meet up more than before. Let these people help, they wouldn't ask if they didn't want to. Your worth it, as knowledge increases, anxiety decreases. Be dignified, If it works, it's right.

She had a quote from Oscar Wilde

"Nothing is worth doing except what the world says is impossible".



Picture Graham Sherlock-Brown and me

Graham Sherlock Brown was the patient speaker at last year's event and talked about PETAL. Graham is a survivor of 6 years and had an EPP (Extra pleural pneumonectomy) which means he had his lung removed.

He uses PETAL which is an acronym for

P = Positive attitude

E = Eating and exercising well (Graham does pilates)

T =Targets

A = Adapting to change

L = Living your life.

He was very inspirational and it was good to meet him and see that he is still doing well.

There were questions and comments from a few people, not many as I think all questions were answered during the day.

Report written by: Debbie Brewer, Mesothelioma Patient

Campaigning News

Coroners and Death Certification Bill **By David Buckle, British Lung Foundation (BLF)**

When someone dies from mesothelioma, it is classified as 'an unnatural death' and a coroner must carry out an inquiry.

As was highlighted in the British Lung Foundation report 'An Unnatural Death', when a death from mesothelioma occurs outside of a coroner's working hours the bereaved can be visited by uniformed police in a marked police car, sometimes in the middle of the night. Many relatives say that this leads them to feel under suspicion during a distressing time.

We welcome the inclusion of the Coroners and Death Certification Bill in the Draft Legislative Programme for 2008-09 and the publication of the updated Charter for the Bereaved, which states that a Chief Coroner should be appointed and set minimum service standards for mesothelioma inquiries.

We urge the Prime Minister to ensure that the Bill is passed in the next parliamentary session and that coroner's inquiries are consistently sensitive to the needs of families bereaved by mesothelioma. To sign the BLF's petition please go to the link below.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/meso-inquiries/>

Free Prescriptions for all Patients with Cancer Petition

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to allow free prescriptions for all patients with cancer.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/prescriptions-ca/>

Employers Liability Insurance Petition

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to 1. Abandon the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's proposal to remove the requirement upon employers to retain copies of Employers Liability Insurance certificates for a period of 40 years and; put in place as a matter of urgency arrangements for a compulsory national database contacting current and historic details of employers insurers so as to safeguard the position of victims of mesothelioma and other occupational diseases for which there is a long period of latency before the condition develops and to enable compensation claims pursued by them to be dealt with quickly.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/mesovictims/>

You are more at risk than you think – Asbestos: The hidden killer

It is hard to believe that every week 20 tradesmen, including plumbers, joiners and electricians, die from asbestos related diseases caused simply by breathing in asbestos fibres. Asbestos-related disease is the biggest single cause of work-related deaths, and accounts for around 4000 deaths per year.

The Health and Safety Executive is launching its campaign '**Asbestos: The hidden killer**' on 13 October 2008, which is aimed at making tradesmen aware of asbestos and the damage it can cause to their health and lives

- More people die from asbestos-related disease per year than are killed on the roads
- Every week 20 tradesmen die from asbestos-related disease
- Every week 6 electricians die from asbestos-related disease
- Every week 6 joiners die from asbestos-related disease
- Every week 3 plumbers die from asbestos-related disease
- It can be present in any building built or refurbished before the year 2000
- The issue of asbestos has not gone with our forefathers - risks with asbestos still exist
- You may not realise it but you may be disturbing asbestos when you work
- Even today around 500,000 non-domestic buildings contain asbestos
- Generally, asbestos is only a risk if it is disturbed or damaged so that fibres are released into the air. If asbestos containing materials are in good condition and in a position where they are not going to be disturbed or damaged then it is safer to leave them where they are and ensure that the risks are managed
- The Control of Asbestos Regulations [2006] require mandatory information, instruction and training for anyone liable to be exposed to asbestos fibres at work

Don't work if:

- You're unsure whether asbestos is present – your employer or the customer should tell you;
- Asbestos is present but you have not been trained to work safely with it;
- The asbestos materials present are sprayed coatings, board or lagging on pipes and boilers – only a contractor with a licence should work on these.

Only work with asbestos if:

- You have had asbestos training, the work is properly planned and the right controls are in place (e.g. you have the right equipment);
- The materials are asbestos cement, textured coatings containing asbestos or others which do not need a licence.

Campaign

- A national campaign is being launched on October 13th 2008, to raise awareness among tradesmen [esp. electricians, plumbers and joiners] that the risk of asbestos is relevant to them and can damage their health
- The campaign will run for 6 weeks
- Adverts will feature on the radio, in newspapers and trade magazines
- The new packs have additional information and advice on training

Further information

- HSE's asbestos web pages at www.hse.gov.uk/hiddenkiller
- *Asbestos essentials* gives guidance on non-licensed work – download it from the asbestos web pages at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos
- *Protect yourself against the hidden killer: Work safely if asbestos is present* HSE campaign leaflet, available at www.hse.gov.uk/hiddenkiller
- Full details of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 are available on www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/regulations.htm
- HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com

Lump Sum Payment Update

On 1 October 2008, a new Government scheme was introduced for people suffering from mesothelioma. If a person is unable to make a claim under the 1979 Pneumoconiosis Act, has not received payment in respect of the disease from an employer, a civil claim or elsewhere and is not entitled to compensation from a Ministry of Defence Scheme, they can claim a one-off lump sum payment.

Please find below the Mesothelioma UK factsheet on this matter.

Lump Sum Payment Factsheet

Have you been given a diagnosis of Mesothelioma?

The Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979

You may be entitled to a lump sum payment under the above named Act in addition to INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT and many other Benefits.

- You have been awarded INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT and
- You do not have a reasonable chance of obtaining compensation through a Solicitor because the employers have ceased trading or due to another reason.
-

The 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme – From 1 October 2008

If you are unable to make a claim under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and have not received payment in respect of the disease from an employer, a civil claim or elsewhere and are not entitled to compensation from a Ministry of Defense Scheme, you can claim a one-off lump sum payment. This scheme covers people whose exposure to asbestos is not as a result of their work as an employee, for example:

- came into contact with asbestos from a relative (for example, by washing their clothes), or
- were exposed to asbestos in the environment (for example, they lived near a factory using asbestos), or
- exposure to asbestos was while self-employed, or
- exposure cannot be specified but it occurred in the United Kingdom.

For exposure as a result of work as an employee under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979

HOW TO CLAIM UNDER THE ABOVE ACT IF YOU ARE THE SUFFERER?

If you have not yet claimed INDUSTRIAL DISABLEMENT BENEFIT

- You should claim this lump sum at the same time as claiming INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT.
- Do not wait for a decision on the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit before claiming.
- When you receive the decision on your INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT, which should be a disability assessment of 100%, telephone the Department for Work and Pensions (Jobcentre Plus) at the address below (always telephone if you can). The lump sum will then be considered.

If you have been awarded INDUSTRIAL DISABLEMENT BENEFIT

- You need to claim the Lump Sum Payment within 12 months of a Decision Maker awarding Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.
- A late claim can be accepted but you will need to explain why the claim is late.

For exposure not as a result of work as an employee under the 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme – From 1 October 2008

- Claims should be made using form PWC1. There will be no time limits for claims from sufferers made during the first year of the scheme but after that time, claims must be received within 12 months of the date of diagnosis.
- The aim is to make payments within 6 weeks of receiving the claim form.
- You will be asked to submit medical evidence with your claim showing that you are suffering from diffuse mesothelioma caused by exposure to asbestos. A further medical examination will not be required.

To claim you should contact:

Barrow Industrial Injuries Benefit Delivery Centre
Department for Work and Pensions (Job Centre Plus)
Workers' Compensation Unit
4th Floor, Phoenix House
Stephen Street
Barrow in Furness
Cumbria LA14 1BY

Telephone helpline: freephone 0800 279 2322

Are you a relative or partner of someone who has died of Mesothelioma?

You may be entitled to a lump sum payment under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 or the 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Either number 1 or 2 below must apply:-

1. Under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979
For exposure as a result of work as an employee
 - Sent in a claim for INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT to the Department of Work and Pensions. This Benefit must be applied for within 12 months of the date of the person's death
 - It has been accepted that the person who has died was suffering from Mesothelioma

OR

2. Under the 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme
For exposure not as a result of work as an employee
 - The claim must be applied for within 12 months of the date of the person's death
 - It has been accepted that the person who has died was suffering from Mesothelioma

Who can claim?

One of the following people can claim and will be considered in the following order:

- The married widow or widower of a sufferer who has died
- The child of a sufferer who is under age 16 or under age 21 but not in full time employment
- The partner of a sufferer has to have been living with the sufferer up to the date of death and there must not be a married widow or widower still alive.
- Any other relative who was dependant on the sufferer at the time of his death.

To claim you should contact:

Barrow Industrial Injuries Benefit Delivery Centre
Department for Work and Pensions (Job Centre Plus)
Workers' Compensation Unit, 4th Floor, Phoenix House, Stephen Street
Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 1BY
Telephone helpline: freephone 0800 279 2322

Acknowledgement: 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme information provided by the Department of Work & Pensions

Turner & Newall (T&N) Compensation Scheme

There has been a recent U-turn regarding 1979 Act payments and T&N Scheme Fund payments.

The Government previously agreed that a 1979 Act payment should not be deducted if a T&N payment was also made. This was for the good reason that only partial compensation is available from the T&N Fund and allowing a T&N claimant to keep a 1979 Act payment would not involve double compensation - the claimant would still receive far less than full compensation even with both payments.

However, on the introduction of the 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme on 1 October 2008, the Government will recover ALL 79 Act payments where a payment is made from the T&N Fund. In some cases this could mean that it would not be worthwhile claiming from the T&N Fund because a claimant might receive more from the 79 Act.

It is important to claim a payment from the T&N Fund wherever possible so please discuss this with your solicitor.

This disgraceful decision means that asbestos victims have to partly fund the new 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme.

Mesothelioma sufferers will now have to give up part of the compensation they used to receive, and that will go into the fund to finance the new mesothelioma scheme.

The government justifies this stance saying that recovery is to prevent double compensation, but even with a payment from the T&N Fund and a government lump sum payment, T&N claimants will still be under compensated.

Written by: The Asbestos Groups Forum

Macmillan Website: <http://www.macmillan.org.uk>

Mesothelioma Discussion Forum

The Macmillan Cancer Support **Share** website section includes a discussion forum for anyone affected by Mesothelioma.

Website Link:

<http://share.macmillan.org.uk/share/forums/?tag=mesothelioma>

Cancer Information Centres

The Macmillan Cancer Support website includes a section where you can search for Information Centres in your area. The centres can offer benefits advice, complementary therapies, counselling and information.

Website Link:

http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Get_Support/Find_information/Find_cancer_information_centres.aspx

Starting a Support Group

You can also access useful information regarding self help and support groups including guidelines for setting up a cancer self help or support groups on the Macmillan Cancer Support website.

Website Link:

http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Get_Support/Cancer_support_groups/Resources.aspx

YouthLine

If you know someone between 12 and 21 years old and someone close to them has Mesothelioma and they need to talk they can call the **Macmillan YouthLine on 0808 808 0800**



Monday - Friday 9am - 9pm

Macmillan Cancer Support says we know the impact cancer can have. We are used to talking about it and we're good at listening. It's free, confidential and it won't show up on the phone bill.

Email youthline@macmillan.org.uk

MESOTHELIOMA UK

National Macmillan Mesothelioma Resource Centre