

What is a terminal illness?



An illness someone will probably die from



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What does terminal illness mean?



Sometimes people have an illness they will not get better from.



Medicines and treatment will not make the illness go away.



The illness will probably make the person die.

This is called a **terminal illness**.

What is a terminal illness like?



Everyone with a terminal illness is different.



Some days, someone might feel ill. They may feel very tired, or sick. They might stay in bed.



Other days, someone might feel better, and have more energy.

They might do more things, like see their friends, or cook a meal.



Some people might not be able to do things they used to do. Like walking, washing, or going to the shops.

They might need help with these things.

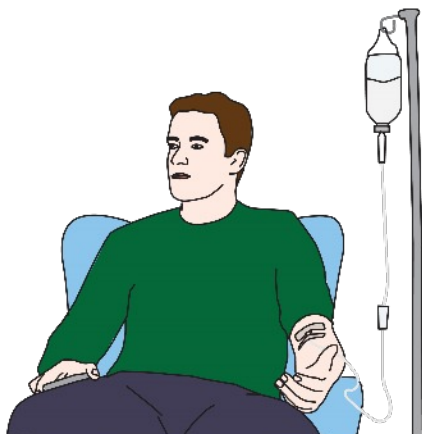
How long do people live with a terminal illness?



Having a terminal illness does not mean someone will die straight away.



People can live with a terminal illness for years, months, weeks, or days.



It depends on the type of illness and treatment they have.



You could ask a doctor or nurse how long they think someone will live for. But they might not know.



This is because it is very hard to tell how long someone will live for.

Does every illness make you die?



No, not every illness makes you die.

For example, most people do not die from a cold. A cold is not a terminal illness.

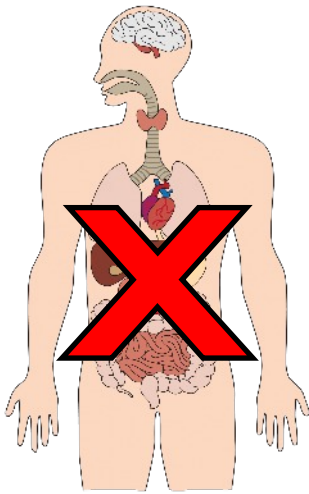


Some people have an illness for their whole life and they need medicines. But they will not die from the illness.



You can ask your doctor or someone you trust if you're worried about an illness.

What happens when someone dies?



When someone dies, their body stops working.

They stop breathing and their heart stops beating.



They cannot wake up or come back to life. They do not feel any pain after they have died.



Read more in our free booklet,
What is death?

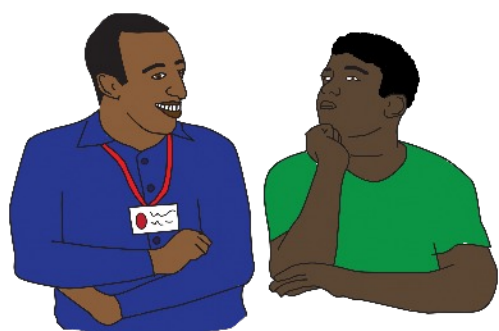


You can get the booklet from this webpage:
www.mariecurie.org.uk/easy-reads
or by calling our free Support Line on
0800 090 2309.

Who can I talk to?



Reading about an illness people die from can be upsetting.



If you have questions or need support, you could talk to a family member, friend, or support worker.



Or you can call Marie Curie's free Support Line on **0800 090 2309** or email **support@mariecurie.org.uk**

About this information



We hope you find this information helpful. But it should not be used instead of speaking to professionals.



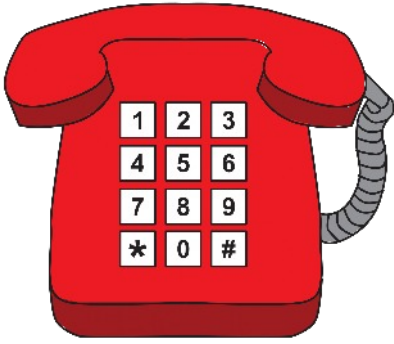
You should still get information from a doctor, nurse, or other professionals.



You can tell us if you like the booklet or if you do not like the booklet.



You can tell us by emailing **review@mariecurie.org.uk**



Or you can call our Support Line on
0800 090 2309.



It is free to call our Support Line.
Your call may be recorded to help us
make our service better. And to
make sure you are safe.

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Speaking Up Together -
making Easy Read information.

Marie Curie - why we're here



We're here for people living with a terminal illness, which is an illness people will die from. We also support their families and friends.

We give people care, information, and support. If you have any questions or need support, call our free Support Line on **0800 090 2309**.

You can find more Easy Reads and videos at www.mariecurie.org.uk/learning-disability



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