



# Mary's story

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AGE: **62**

DIAGNOSIS: **Kidney and Lung Cancer**

ISSUES: **Depression, isolation, anger, confusion, financial difficulties**

“ They found that I had a tumour on my kidney and said that they needed to take it out right away. It was after the operation that more bad news came. I was told that further tests showed that I had lung cancer as well. This news absolutely devastated me and I went to pieces for a while. My doctor felt that I was not dealing with my situation at all well. He contacted the cancer advocacy service, with my permission, and asked if someone could come and see me. I was introduced to Christine who was to be my advocate. She told me that she had had breast cancer. That made me think that I was talking to someone who understood how I may be feeling and that would understand the procedures that may be happening to me over the next few weeks and months. I was confused about any treatment that may be proposed. I was also having trouble with my finances because I wasn't getting any benefits although I had had to cut my hours at work. I just panicked whenever I spoke to someone at the benefits office and I didn't seem to be getting anywhere.

I had been feeling so alone. Christine started telephoning me from the moment we met. At first the calls were just to check how I was but, then she started to visit and helped me write some letters. She has already started to help me sort out my money problems. Christine also came with me to the Doctors and that was very helpful. Perhaps the most helpful thing so far was she has visited the consultant with me.

I know that I have got a long and fraught journey ahead of me but I am now able to share it with someone. I still panic and I am confused at times. However, she is there to help me understand things and we write down questions before I go for appointments. It is really good when she comes with me. ”

Christine has supported Mary for 2 months so far, with 2 visits, 3 telephone calls and 1 meeting

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