

Cancer52 Inequalities Position Statement

We believe all people with cancer must receive the best possible diagnosis, treatment and care, no matter who they are, where they live or the type of cancer that they have been diagnosed with.

In the UK, 47% of all cancer diagnoses and 55% of all cancer deaths are from rare or less common cancers.¹ Rare and less common cancers are defined as all cancers outside of the four most common cancers (breast, bowel, lung and prostate).

People with rare and less common cancers can experience inequalities in accessing care and treatment and face further inequalities linked with characteristics including deprivation, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation and disability. These characteristics are associated with differences in prevalence of cancer risk factors, cancer incidence rates, experience of care and ultimately survival outcomes.

As a charity with inequality as our starting point, our ambition is to minimise the impact of health inequalities for every patient with a rare or less common cancer.

We recognise that structures and cultures within the charity sector sometimes reinforce rather than dismantle inequalities, so we will ensure that our work on health inequalities is visible, inclusive and at the heart of our work with our members, our partners, and the wider cancer community.

We also seek to influence others, and are asking the UK government to put health inequalities at the centre of their work, establishing a national target to reduce deaths from rare and less common cancers, making a 15% reduction in deaths by 2040 a reality, and saving 80,000 lives.

We will review our progress annually.

June 2025

Position statement to be reviewed June 2026.

¹ Source: [Cancer52 Manifesto](#)