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Help for the Older Patient

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Resources targeted to seniors vary greatly in their services. While some organizations provide information about wills and assisted living, others include information about job hunting and travel.

[AARP](#) is the largest national organization for people over 50, and although the organization does have a membership arm in which members can receive a monthly newsletter and magazine, financial advice and discounted services, there is also non-fee-based information on its website, including articles on insurance, financial planning, health, nutrition, travel and legal issues.

The [National Council on Aging](#) is a nonprofit that provides assistance to older people to stay healthy, find jobs, volunteer and take advantage of [government and private benefits programs](#) for prescription drugs and other health care costs. The federal government also sponsors several sites, including the [Administration on Aging](#) and [FirstGov for Seniors](#) that provide information on Social Security, Medicare and retirement.

A number of elderly cancer survivors live independently, either in a community-based environment or in a private residence. The [Assisted Living Federation of America](#) provides information on whether assisted living is needed and how to choose a residence. The [National Senior Citizens Law Center](#) is a nonprofit that advocates for the legal rights of elderly and disabled Americans, especially those with a low income. Even for healthy survivors, it is a smart idea to get financial and legal papers in order, including a will and medical power of attorney.

Specific to research in aging cancer patients, the [International Society of Geriatric Oncology](#), a professional organization, and the [Senior Adult Oncology Program at Moffitt Cancer Center](#) provide information on clinical trials and new research that may be useful to older patients.