

PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

People affected by Parkinson's highlighted areas where politicians can make a big difference to their lives.

Read on and sign up to the **three pledges for Parkinson's**.

**3 PLEDGES
FOR
PARKINSON'S**

**Parkinson's UK Manifesto
2010 General Election**

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PLEDGE 1: FAIR ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

We say: Everybody affected by Parkinson's should have access to the right health and social care – wherever they live.

- **More than one in four people have never met with a Parkinson's nurse**, yet they can cut hospital admissions for people with Parkinson's by 50%¹.
- **Nearly half have never seen a physiotherapist**, who can help people avoid falls, injuries and admissions to hospital².
- **Less than half of carers** who say they need a break from caring have had one³.



Geoffrey

Why this makes financial sense:

- **As little as an extra £10,000 for each area** is needed to provide key recommended healthcare services for people with Parkinson's⁴.
- **The NHS can save around £56million** with the right community support through nurses and therapists⁵.
- **Parkinson's nurses for all could potentially save the NHS around £6million** a year in England by cutting outpatient care⁶.

“My medication is reviewed only once a year and an unscheduled appointment is a two to three month wait. This leaves me without any medical advice from my neurologist should I need it.”

A person with Parkinson's

PLEDGE 2: ACCESS TO THE RIGHT BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

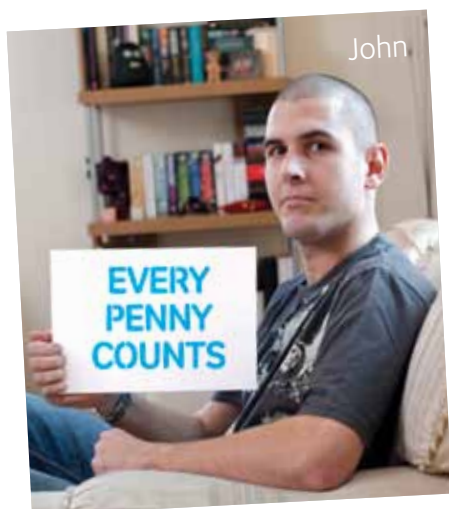
We say: People with Parkinson's should be able to receive the financial support they need.

- **66% of people under 65 with Parkinson's feel they have been wrongly forced into job seeking** – the tick-box test for Employment Support Allowance (ESA) does not consider fluctuating conditions like Parkinson's⁷.
- **ESA assessors should have training on complex conditions like Parkinson's** – so that assessments are fair⁸.

“The whole ESA procedure is totally inadequate for people like me. They deem me unfit for work now but say I could return within six months...do they know of some miracle cure for Parkinson's!”

A person with Parkinson's

We say: People with Parkinson's can take up to 15 medicines a day – no one should face financial difficulty or miss medication because of prescription charges.



- **We welcome prescription charges being abolished in Wales, and phased out in Northern Ireland and Scotland** – we believe that people with Parkinson's living in England should also benefit from this.

Why this makes financial sense:

- **If people don't take their medication there's a hidden cost** – more hospital admissions and extra community support.

PLEDGE 3: GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO INVEST IN A CURE AND BETTER TREATMENTS

We say: Long-term investment in neurological research can help us find a cure and better treatments.

- **The Government must continue to invest in our scientists and clinicians**, and support innovation in our universities and hospitals so the UK keeps its position as a global leader in Parkinson's research.
- **Long approval times for clinical trials are holding back a cure** – the Government needs to cut bureaucracy and fast track promising therapies so people can benefit more quickly from the research.

Why this makes financial sense:

- **Long-term investment** leads to more effective treatments and gets us closer to a cure, which will reduce NHS and social care costs.
- **Strengthening the UK's infrastructure in Parkinson's research** will contribute to a world-class research environment and stronger economy.



About Parkinson's

120,000 people in the UK have Parkinson's. Most people with the condition are aged 50 or over, but younger people can get it too.

Parkinson's causes some people's hands and bodies to shake. People with Parkinson's often find it hard to move freely. Their muscles can become stiff and sometimes they freeze suddenly when moving. There are also other issues, such as tiredness, pain, depression and constipation, that can have a huge impact on their day-to-day lives.

Parkinson's doesn't directly cause people to die, but symptoms do get worse over time.

There is currently no cure.

How can parliamentary candidates support us?

- Sign up to the **pledges for Parkinson's** at parkinsons.org.uk/election to indicate your support.
- Use our online resources to publicise your support. Publicity material can be found at parkinsons.org.uk/election
- Email campaigns@parkinsons.org.uk for details of local Parkinson's UK contacts in your constituency or call the Parkinson's campaigns line: **020 7963 9349**.
- Influence your party's policies by highlighting the issues raised in this manifesto.
- Raise these issues with Government ministers or frontbench spokespeople if you are elected.
- Fight for fair care for people with Parkinson's locally.

¹ *National costing report: Parkinson's disease*, NICE, June 2006

² *Life with Parkinson's Today*, Parkinson's Disease Society, 2008

³ *Life with Parkinson's Today*, Parkinson's Disease Society, 2008

⁴ *National costing report: Parkinson's disease*, NICE, June 2006

⁵ *PDS UK Primary Care Task Force; Moving and Shaping, A guide to commissioning integrated services for people with Parkinson's disease*, Parkinson's Disease Society, 2006

⁶ *National costing report: Parkinson's disease*, NICE, June 2006

⁷ *Of little benefit and not working: People with Parkinson's experience of Employment and Support Allowance*, Parkinson's Disease Society, 2009

⁸ *Life with Parkinson's Today*, Parkinson's Disease Society, 2008

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Every hour, someone in the UK is told they have Parkinson's. Because we're here, no one has to face Parkinson's alone. We bring people with Parkinson's, their carers and families together via our network of local groups, our website and free confidential helpline. Specialist nurses, our supporters and staff provide information and training on every aspect of Parkinson's.

As the UK's Parkinson's support and research charity we're leading the work to find a cure, and we're closer than ever. We also campaign to change attitudes and demand better services.

Our work is totally dependent on donations. Help us to find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's.

Parkinson's UK

Free* confidential helpline **0808 800 0303**

parkinsons.org.uk

hello@parkinsons.org.uk

*calls are free from UK landlines and most mobile networks.

Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A charity registered in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554).

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