

# The psychosocial consequences of involuntary loss of weight

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#### Macmillan weight and eating studies

Helping people with advanced cancer and their families live with the symptoms of cancer cachexia syndrome







Literature review

#### Phase II

**Exploratory work** 

Medical Research Council Health Services and Public Health Record Board. *A framework for development and evaluation of RCT's for complex interventions to improve health.* 2000. London, Medical Research Council.

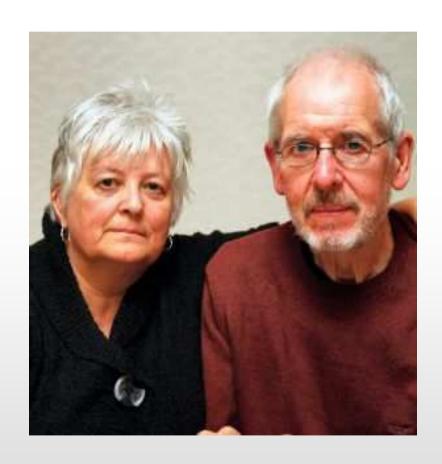
#### Phase III

Develop MAWE and exploratory trial

#### Phase III

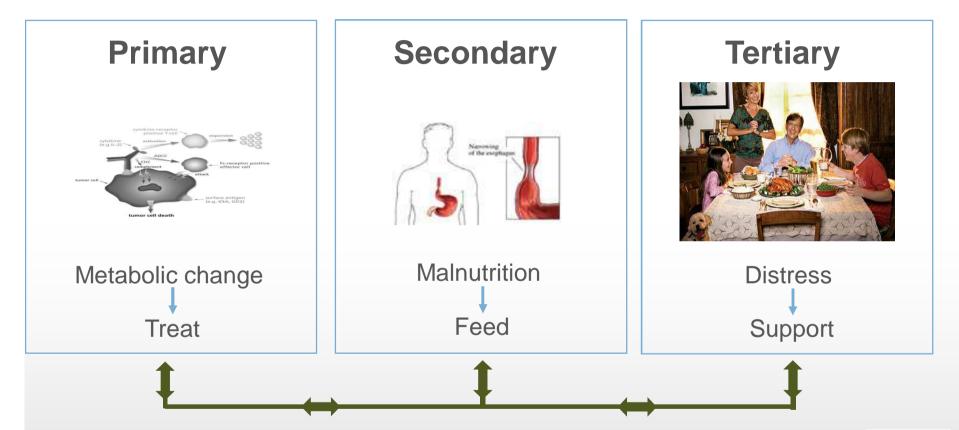
Develop support for family management and ? trial

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### Cancer cachexia syndrome





Psychosocial intervention can augment pharmacological and nutritional intervention

NE ARE 5
NACMILLAN.
ANCER SUPPORT



#### Weight loss and anorexia are problems for:

- clinicians
- patients
- families

Hopkinson J.B. et al. (2006) The prevalence of concern about weight loss and change in eating habits in people with advanced cancer. *JPSM*. 32(4) 322-331.

Hopkinson J.B. et al. (2006) The experience of weight loss in people with advanced cancer. *JAN*. 54(3) 304-312.

Hopkinson J.B. (2007) How people with advanced cancer manage change in eating habits. *JAN*. 59(5) 454-462.





## Involuntary weight loss: a problem for patients







Number and percentage of participants reporting weight loss, eating less and concern about the symptoms		
	n (%)	95%CI
Weight loss (n=199)	156 (79%)	73%-85%
Eating less (n=199)	151 (76%)	70%-82%
Concern about weight loss or eating less (n=199)	87 (52%)	44%-60%



### Visible weight loss



You can see you're losing weight fast...Your clothes aren't fitting you any more. You know the cancer's taking over. It may be inside I'm giving up (Steven)



## The Macmillan Approach to Weight and Eating (MAWE)

Breaking
through
the
weight
loss
taboo

Telling healing stories

Managing conflict

Eating well

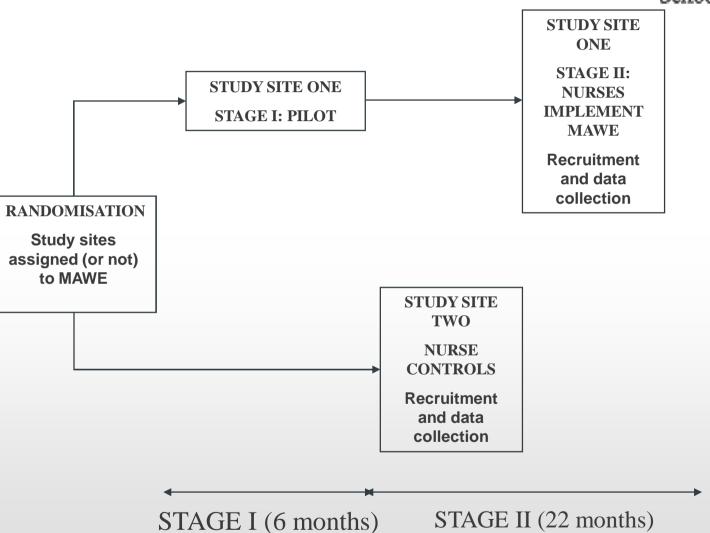
Support for self-action



### Design: An exploratory trial to develop and test the Macmillan Approach to Weight Loss and Eating Difficulties

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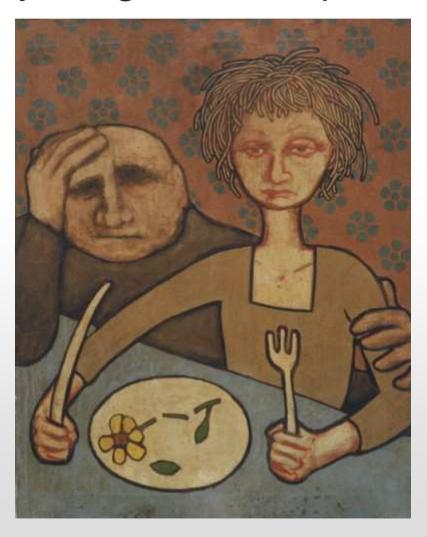


Hopkinson JB, Fenlon D, Nicholls P, Wright D, Okamoto I, Roffe L, Foster C (In press) Helping people live with advanced cancer: An exploratory cluster randomised trial to investigate the effectiveness of the 'Macmillan Approach to Weight loss and Eating difficulties' (MAWE). Macmillan Cancer Support.





#### Involuntary weight loss: a problem for families







I'm out of my depth. (Paula's husband)

I don't know if I'm doing the right thing. (Jack's wife)

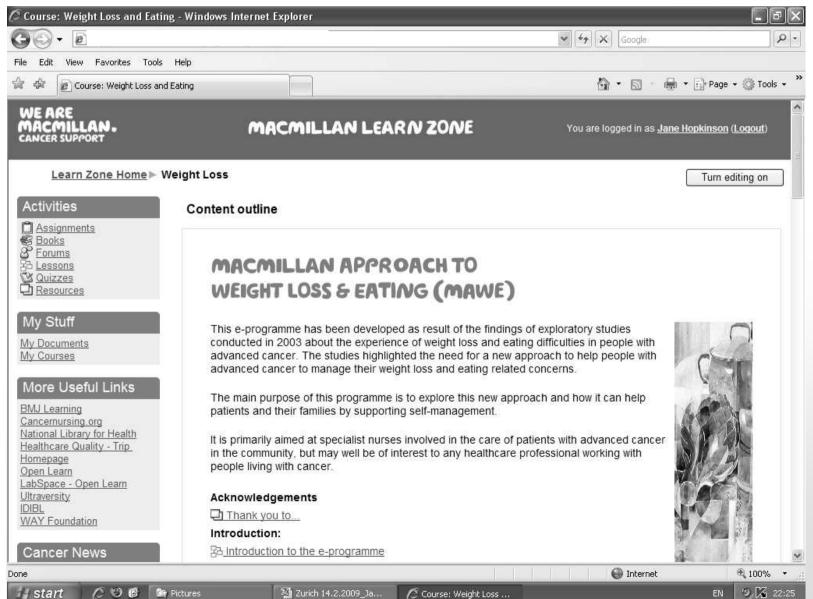




I do go into battle sometimes ....He'll eat sweet biscuits, cakes, you name it, but when it comes to actual meals, even things he used to be passionate about, he just won't eat. (William's wife)

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### Question:

What is appropriate nutritional care for people affected by advanced cancer?

