

# A GUIDE TO FINANCIALLY NAVIGATING METASTATIC BREAST CANCER



Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), or stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread to another part of the body, most commonly the bones, lungs, brain, or liver.

## WHAT TO KNOW

There currently isn't a cure for metastatic breast cancer. Healthcare providers will recommend treatments that can improve your quality of life and help you live as long as possible.

Metastatic patients face unique financial challenges, as treatment will likely be ongoing, and they may experience an increased rate of job and income loss.

Many healthcare providers may offer referrals to financial programs, and pharmaceutical companies may be able to assist with the cost of medicines. Don't skip treatments or doctor's visits.

## GET FINANCIAL HELP

### APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE

Many patients diagnosed with MBC are able to continue working. If so, you may qualify for Pink Fund's three-month financial bridge program to help with housing, transportation, utilities and insurance. Apply as soon as possible for maximum benefit.

If you're unable to work, you can apply for Social Security Disability. MBC is an automatic qualifier. However, there is a mandatory five-month wait period where you can show no working income. Pink Fund's Mary Herczog Fund for Metastatic Breast Cancer is offered to stage IV metastatic patients who have applied and are awaiting Social Security Disability payments. This offers a six-month financial cushion for metastatic patients and their families.

### CONSIDER CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials explore new ways to prevent, detect, or treat disease. This is the way new treatments become viable for everyone.

Some clinical trials may meet Pink Fund's definition of active treatment, qualifying for financial help. This can allow you to offset any costs you may incur to allow you to participate in a clinical trial. In many cases, clinical trial medications may be covered by the provider, and provider appointments covered by insurance, reducing significant long-term treatment expenses.

Ask your provider about clinical trials, even if not suggested to you. Available clinical trials can be found at: [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).

