

## Polo Shirt, T-Shirt, Baseball Hat & Wrist Band Order Form

Show your colors and spread the word with our polo shirts and baseball caps. Our polo shirts are white with the traditional ECAA logo embroidered on the left side. Our caps are a natural color with a navy blue bill, embroidered ECAA logo and the web site address. Caps are 100% cotton and shirts are a 50-50 polyester/cotton blend of 6.5 oz material for long-lasting good looks. Our wrist bands are silicone with one-half blue and the other half gold. They bear the ECAA web site address and the words, "Be EC Aware."

Our traditional T-shirts are light blue with a large, full color, "ECAA Swallows" graphic on the front. The back shows the following message in navy:

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER  
"HARD TO SWALLOW"  
www.ecaware.org

How many T-shirts?

S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ X-L \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_ XXXL \_\_\_

\$12.50 ea. \$ \_\_\_

How many polo shirts?

S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ X-L \_\_\_ \$16.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_

How many caps?

One size fits most \_\_\_ \$8.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_

How many wrist bands?

One size fits most \_\_\_ \$3.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_

Additional tax deductible donation \$ \_\_\_

Please add shipping to order total:

\$0.01 to \$9.99 - \$1

\$10.00 to \$39.99 - \$4

\$40 and up - \$6

Ship to:

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send with payments to:** **For Questions:**  
ECAA PO Box 25792 Lois Dickerman  
Tamarac, FL 33320 lxd4@att.net  
1-866-370-3222

### Social Security Disability

The agency that makes the medical decisions regarding whether or not you are disabled has a "List of Impairments" that describes medical conditions that are considered so severe that they automatically mean you are disabled as defined by law.

A confirmed diagnosis of Esophageal Cancer (EC) is an automatic medical approval based on Social Security's own guidelines. Get a copy of your biopsy/surgery report and the pathologist's report confirming the EC to accompany your application and it is automatically approved for disability benefits. These documents are normally available from the hospital where your biopsy, scope or surgery was performed. You just have to wait until your application is reviewed by the state agency making the decision. Most of these folk want to move files off their desks and will approve those conditions on the "List of Impairments" quickly. In case you are off work for longer than you think you will be, it is probably wise to file for Social Security Disability as soon as you are diagnosed with EC as it may take up to 5 months for approval. If you continue to work or have certain self-employment income, you may not qualify financially for disability, even though you are medically qualified.

You must be disabled for 5 months before monthly payments can begin. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for low-income persons may also be available. You can file for disability at any time and the benefits can be retroactive up to one year if you have been off work for an extended period. Persons of any age before "normal" retirement age may apply for disability. Benefits are primarily based on previous work credits and can be surprisingly high. As a general rule, disability benefits are greater than normal retirement benefits. Once the beneficiary reaches "normal" retirement age, benefits can be reduced to the "normal" retirement amount in some cases if the beneficiary has returned to work. Be cautious.

### Medicare

Medicare automatically starts 24 months after disability benefits begin. If you are granted retroactive benefits, Medicare starts 24 months after the beginning date of the retroactive period.

For those persons on COBRA (extended medical coverage from a former employer), this is a great benefit as it may lower the costs of medical coverage after Medicare begins. With the new drug coverage under Medicare, many chemo regimens have additional coverage. You will receive information from the Medicare program approximately 90 days before eligibility. Please handle the paperwork quickly to avoid a delay in Medicare benefits.

If your spouse or children are covered by COBRA, be certain to check on their coverage from your former employer. Medicare is for the disabled person only. Insured and/or dependents may be eligible for COBRA for 18 or 36 months, depending upon the circumstances of the job loss from the former employer.

### Return To Work

There are several regulations that interact with one another and can be confusing. If you return to work and earn over a "substantial" amount (normally an average of \$860/month [2006 figures]) within the next 12 months after monthly payments begin, you have to pay back the total amount received and you may lose some future benefits. Once you have been receiving disability checks for 12 months you can return to work without paying back the amount previously received from Social Security.

You are permitted and encouraged to return to work for a "trial work period." During your "trial work period" you can earn any amount for the next 9 months and your benefits are not affected. After that time 9 months of "substantial" income in the next 60 months) your benefits cease, but can start again if you lose your job, without having to requalify.

After your "trial work period" there is an extended period of eligibility where you can have 36 months during which you can work and still receive benefits for any month your earnings are not "substantial."

This information is not meant to be legal or medical advice. The rules and amounts change frequently and can be confusing. Please see your Social Security office for the latest and most accurate information. A great deal of information is available on the following two web sites: www.ssa.gov, www.socialsecurity.gov



Esophageal Cancer  
Awareness Association, Inc.

**ECAA**  
**PO Box 25792**  
**Tamarac, FL 33320**  
**1-866-370-3222**  
**www.ECAware.org**

The Esophageal Cancer Awareness Association, Inc. (ECAA) is a volunteer-member-driven, not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization originally founded by esophageal cancer (EC) survivors, caregivers and patients in 2002.

Our membership is open to all with an interest in raising awareness of this deadly disease. We invite you to visit our web site or contact us by telephone or mail for information on dealing with EC.

We care and EC is survivable! Please join us in our efforts.

501(c)3 tax exempt

## Learning about Esophageal Cancer Scary. Rare. Survivable!

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with EC, then you face many challenges ahead. One of the most important challenges is to learn as much as possible about EC. To wage a war, you must know and understand your enemy. **Arm yourself with knowledge.**

One of the best sources of information for EC and other rare cancers is the Internet. The following are helpful web sites to search for information and help, with the most specific listed first.

### Esophageal Cancer Sites

#### **ECAA Web Site**

www.ecaware.org

Our site for support awareness and quality of life

#### **EC List**

ec-group@listserv.acor.org

The main EC communication channel, to share information, news, joy and sorrow. To join the web group and post email messages:

ec-group-request@listserv.acor.org.

To get help from the list owner:

http://listserv.acor.org/archives/ec-group.html

(Archives)

### General and Comprehensive Information Sites

#### **American Cancer Society**

www.cancer.org 800-227-2345

#### **National Cancer Institute**

www.cancer.gov 800-422-6237

#### **People Living with Cancer (website of ASCO)**

www.plwc.org 703-519-2927

#### **National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship**

www.canceradvocacy.org 877-622-7937

### Hospice and Home Care Sites

#### **National Association for Home Care**

www.nahc.org 202-547-7424

#### **National Hospice and Palliative Care Org**

www.caringinfo.org 800-658-8898

### Financial Aid, Assistance, and Occupational Support Sites

#### **CancerCare**

www.cancercares.org

800-813-4673 or 800-813-HOPE

#### **Patient Advocate Foundation**

www.patientadvocate.org 800-532-5274

#### **Cancer and Careers**

www.cancerandcareers.org Help for working

cancer patients and returning to work.

#### **FireFighter Cancer Support Network:**

www.firefightercancersupport.org

866-994-3276

### Travel and Housing Sites

#### **National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses**

www.nahhh.org 800-542-9730

#### **Air Charity Network**

www.aircharitynetwork.org 877-621-7177

#### **National Patient Travel Center**

www.PatientTravel.org 800-296-1217

#### **Corporate Angel Network, Inc.**

www.corpangelnetwork.org 866-328-1313

### Publications

#### **CURE Magazine**

www.curetoday.com 800-210-2873

Free subscription

#### **Coping with Cancer Magazine**

www.copingmag.com 615-790-2400

\$19 for 1 year/6 issues

For a complete listing of useful web sites, including counseling and survivorship clinics, please go to [www.ecaware.org](http://www.ecaware.org).

### Internet Assistance

If you do not have a computer or you are not familiar with using the Internet, don't give up! You still have many options. With a little help, anyone can learn to use the Internet. Here are some suggestions where help may be available:

1. Check your local or regional cancer treatment center or your local hospital at their patient information library or center. Many have free internet access stations and volunteer personnel who can teach you how to find and print out the information you seek.
  2. Check your local public library. Almost all have Internet access stations with personnel who are hired to run these services and are available to assist you.
  3. Other places that may have computer access and are sources of help are: public secondary schools and high schools in your neighborhood, community colleges that teach computer science courses, charitable and humanitarian organizations like the YMCA or YWCA, the Salvation Army, Lions Club, Rotary Club, churches, synagogues, and other public service organizations.
  4. Check with any teenager you know. Many high school students are very computer literate these days and would be happy to download information for you, particularly if you reward them with a little extra spending money!
  5. Ask close friends or family. When you are dealing with cancer, you may be reluctant to ask for help out of concern that you will be a burden. But, if people care for you, letting them help you in small ways will give them great satisfaction and bring you closer together at a time when you really need it.
- Above all, don't be afraid or ashamed to ask for help!** Those who help you will gain knowledge that may help them and their loved ones some day. Your educational process will also educate your helper about where to find information on EC and other forms of cancer. And your helper will also benefit by knowing that he/she did something very important for you..

**REMEMBER: To fight, you must be armed and knowledge will give you strength and courage.**

### Help us grow! ECAA Membership Application

After completing this application, you will be sent a confirmation e-mail at the address you provided with a membership voucher to enclose with your membership fee to ECAA. We currently do not accept membership fees on our website.

#### **Part 1 – Membership Contact Information**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Village \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part 2 – Optional Questionnaire**

EC Relationship: (check all that apply)

I am an esophageal cancer patient or survivor

I am or was a caregiver or family member of someone with EC

I am a medical professional or health care worker

Other – Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteering Interest: (check all that apply)**

form a local contact group

outreach to other EC patients in your area

distribute material at hospitals/clinics

membership campaigns

fundraising activities

Additional information or comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_