

PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

Amounts stated are valid until end of April 2018

WHAT IS PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit to help people aged 16 to 64 who have a serious illness – like a health condition, mental health condition or disability. It's not based on your income or savings and it won't affect any other benefits you're getting.

PIP is there to help you live as independently as possible and deal with any extra costs that often come with having a health condition or disability.

The benefit is based on the level of help you need because of your condition, rather than the condition itself. This means that you will need to go through an application process to see what level of support you're entitled to.



QUALIFYING FOR PIP

You will need to have had a health condition or disability for at least three months (known as the 'qualifying period'). Your condition must also be expected to last for at least another nine months (known as the 'prospective test').

The qualifying period starts from when you began to need the benefit, not from when you first make your claim. In some cases this means you could class it as starting from when your symptoms began, rather than when you were diagnosed.

WHAT IS PIP MADE UP OF?

There are two parts to PIP, with a standard and an enhanced rate for both – weekly rates for 2017/2018 are:

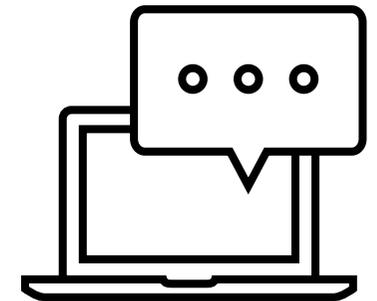
- 1. A daily living part:**
enhanced rate £82.30, standard rate £55.10.
- 2. A mobility part:**
enhanced rate £57.45, standard rate £21.80.

Depending on your situation you may get one or both of these. For the **daily living part** you must show you need help with your daily living. With the **mobility component** you must show you need help with moving around.

How is PIP being introduced?

PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16 to 64. It was introduced in 2013 for new claims in England, Scotland and Wales. People already claiming DLA were invited to claim by 2018. Northern Ireland brought in PIP in 2016. PIP can't be backdated but will be paid from the first time you call.

If you already receive DLA you are unlikely to be affected until the end of 2017, but there are some circumstances where you will be asked to make a claim before then (see page 2).



HOW DO I APPLY FOR PIP?

To apply for PIP you start by calling the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). If you like, you can have someone with you to help you make this call. This person can speak to the DWP for you, as long as you say this is allowed when you call.

It will help you to have the following information to hand:

- Your full name and date of birth
- Daytime contact number
- National Insurance number
- Your GP, consultant, nurse specialist or social worker's details
- Any periods spent in hospital or having treatment
- Your bank details so the money can be paid into your account (PIP is usually paid every four weeks).

The DWP will send you a *How your disability affects you* form (PIP2) to fill in. This form will have a barcode unique to you, and some parts will be completed already based on the information you gave when you called. You'll have four weeks to complete and return the form, but you can ask for extra time in some situations.

When you send in your form, you should include any medical reports or documents that will support your claim. This could be a care plan from specialist nurses or social workers, or physiotherapy assessments. Make copies in case anything gets lost in the post.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Most people will be asked to have a face-to-face assessment with a health professional. You won't need to have this if your diagnosis is terminal though. The assessment will be your chance to explain how your condition or disability affects you on a day-to-day basis.

The assessment can take place at your home or another meeting place. You can have someone there with you if you like.

What you'll be assessed on

The health professional will assess you on various activities:

For the daily living part:

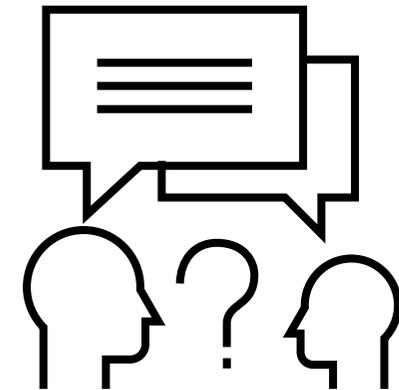
- Preparing food and drink
- Nutrition
- Managing your treatments
- Washing and bathing
- Dressing and undressing
- Communicating verbally
- Engaging socially
- Making financial decisions
- Managing toilet needs
- Reading and understanding information.

For the mobility part:

- Planning and following a journey
- Physically moving around.

You will be scored on the activities that are relevant to you.

The health professional will send a report back to the DWP who will use this to help make a decision about your entitlement, level and length of time you'll get it for. You will get this decision in the post.

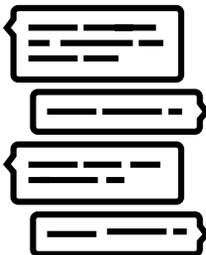


WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T AGREE WITH A DECISION?

If your claim isn't allowed or your existing award is reduced, you should get a phone call to explain why. If you disagree with the decision, you can ask the DWP to reconsider. You must do this within one month of the date on the decision letter. If you are still unhappy with the decision, you can then appeal. Again, you must contact the DWP within one month from the date on the reconsideration decision letter.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY ILLNESS IS TERMINAL?

Special rules are in place for a terminal illness. If you're not expected to live for more than six months you will be fast-tracked to a guaranteed payment of the enhanced rate of the daily living part of PIP, without having to meet the qualifying period or the prospective test. This means you won't need to have a face-to-face assessment. You also won't have to complete the *How your disability affects you* form.



I'M ALREADY GETTING DLA, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

At some point you will get a letter from the DWP to let you know when your DLA is due to end, and to explain how to make a claim for PIP. You don't need to do anything until you receive this letter.

In certain situations they'll ask you to make a claim earlier if:

- There's a change in how your condition affects you
- Your DLA award is due to end and you haven't received a renewal letter
- You're approaching the age of 16.

If you have a life or indefinite award period for DLA, you will still need to make a claim. This is because PIP has different criteria to DLA.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR PIP?

Contact the DWP on **0800 917 2222**

If you already claim or have a general enquiry

Call the PIP enquiry line on **0845 850 3322** or **text/phone 0345 601 6677**.

For more information

Visit gov.uk/pip to use the 'PIP checker' and find out more about how the new benefit may affect you.

NEED HELP?

Contact CLIC Sargent's free telephone welfare advice service by calling **0800 915 4439** or emailing welfareadvice@clicsargent.org.uk

Advisers can answer questions about the forms you need to fill in, or benefits in general. They can also let you know about other organisations that can help you.

For more information

Find out more about PIP by going to citizensadvice.org, selecting the country you're in and searching for 'PIP'.

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