

PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

Volume 1 / Issue 2

INTRODUCTION
OF NEW BENEFIT
FROM APRIL 2013
WILL REPLACE
DISABILITY LIVING
ALLOWANCE.



WHAT IS IT?

A new benefit that will be introduced from April 2013, and will replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA), for people aged between 16-64 who have daily care needs or difficulty getting about. The general provisions to implement this new benefit are set out in the Welfare Reform Act 2012 ('the Act'). PIP is intended to help with the extra costs of having a long-term health condition or disability. You can choose to spend the money on whatever you want. PIP is not means-tested which means that it will be paid on top of other benefits you may be getting. You can get PIP whether you are in or out of work.

HOW PIP IS WORKED OUT

PIP is made up of two components:

1) daily living component; 2) mobility component. You may have entitlement to both. Within each component, there is a standard rate and an enhanced rate. To qualify for the standard rate, the claimant's ability to undertake daily living or mobility activities must be 'limited' by his/her physical or mental condition. For the enhanced rate, the claimant's ability must be 'severely limited'. For both components a 'required period' will be satisfied if claimants have had the appropriate level of need for 3 months, and expect to have those needs for a further 9 months. However, terminally ill claimants (i.e. those not expected to live longer than 6 months) will not have to satisfy a required period condition, and will automatically receive the enhanced rate of the daily living component.

HOW PIP IS ASSESSED

Before PIP can be awarded, you are required to attend a face-to-face assessment, carried out by a health professional. They will look at your ability to carry out certain key activities that are considered essential to daily living and getting around, and look at evidence from other health professionals who support you. They will then give you points based on these factors. To qualify for either component of PIP you will have to score a certain number of points according to how well you can carry out the activities. If you have a terminal illness, you will be fast-tracked to a guaranteed payment of PIP at the enhanced rate of the daily living component. You will not have to meet the qualifying period, although you will need to be assessed for the mobility component.

PEOPLE WHO CAN CLAIM PIP

People with long-term health conditions or disability who are aged between 16 and 64. Applicants must also meet certain conditions about living in the UK. There are no particular health conditions or disabilities that give you

automatic entitlement to PIP, and a decision will be made about whether you get PIP depending on your personal circumstances.

INTRODUCTION OF PIP

From 8 April 2013 specific areas of the UK can claim PIP. For all other areas you can claim PIP from June 2013 as long as you are not in receipt of DLA. If you are currently in receipt of DLA, a letter inviting you to claim PIP will be sent out in October 2013 and you will be asked to make a new claim for PIP if: 1) you report a change in your condition; 2) your DLA is due to come to an end; or 3) you are approaching your sixteenth birthday. In the majority of cases, PIP will be paid every month for a fixed period, thereafter you will be required to re-apply.

“There is no automatic transfer from DLA to PIP”

PEOPLE ALREADY RECEIVING DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)

There is no automatic transfer from DLA to PIP, and if you are receiving DLA, a letter inviting you to make a new claim for PIP will be sent out in October 2015. If you don't claim or if your claim is unsuccessful, **you will no longer receive DLA**. Once you **make** a claim, you will continue to get DLA until you **are** told whether you qualify for PIP. You will not have to prove that your condition has existed for at least **3** months, but your condition or disability must be expected to last for at least **9** months.

AGED 65+

If you **are aged 65 or over and already in receipt of DLA** you will not be required to make a claim when PIP is introduced. You **can continue to receive** DLA for as long as you meet the conditions.

AGED UNDER 16

If you **are under the age of 16 you can continue to receive DLA** until you reach 16. Your parent or guardian will **receive** a letter **nearer the time, advising you** to claim PIP.



PASSPORT BENEFITS

If you are **in receipt of DLA**, you can apply for **additional support known as passport benefits**. This includes Blue Badge, Carers Allowance, Motability and help with public transport. The government has stated that it will try to keep existing arrangements in place wherever possible but final decisions are yet to be made

APPEALING

There is a right of appeal to the first tier Tribunal (Social Entitlement Chamber) against most decisions concerning entitlement to PIP. However, there is a power under the Act to require consideration of a revision before appeal is made. If a decision notice for PIP says that the right of appeal only arises after the Secretary of State has considered revising the decision, then the claimant must first request a decision before appealing.

CRITISICMS

According to the Government's own figures, over 600,000 people will lose entitlement altogether as DLA is replaced by PIP. Still others will qualify for a lower rate than they currently receive. In protest to these changes, thousands of blind and partially sighted people wrote to and visited their MPs to ask that their needs are properly recognised in the final PIP assessment criteria. These criteria were published on 13 December 2012 and as a result of high-profile campaigns there have been significant improvements around both the mobility and daily living component.