

Benefits advice following amputation

This leaflet is designed to help you understand some of the disability benefits that may apply to you.

It provides basic information and sources of advice for more detailed information.

The information in this factsheet is intended to be a guide and does not cover every circumstance. It is possible that some of the information is over simplified or may become inaccurate overtime because of changes to the law.

For more detailed information and advice on benefits, entitlements and applications see the websites as below:

Department for work and pensions (DWP): www.gov.uk/if-you-become-disabled

Independent advice Citizens advice Bureau: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Age UK: www.ageuk.org.uk

Limbless association: www.limbless-association.org

You can make use of independent, free and anonymous Benefits Calculators to find out

- what benefits you could get
- how to claim
- how your benefits will be affected if you start work

These have replaced the Benefits Adviser service.

For further information:

www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

www.entitledto.co.uk

www.turn2us.org.uk

What benefits might I be entitled to?

It should be noted that for certain benefits, Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Employment Support Allowance, decisions about benefit entitlement are based on accurate and current information. A report written specifically to support a benefit claim from a relevant health professional may be essential, particularly if your restrictions are subtle or complex and not readily apparent to others. It is important not to assume that a named health professional will be contacted automatically and it may be advisable to contact the health professional yourself.

The main disability and sickness benefits are:

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance for people with a long term health condition or disability aged 16-64.

PIP helps with some of the extra costs incurred by long-term ill health or disability and is based on how your condition affects you, not on the condition itself. PIP is not means tested, not taxable and paid whether working or non-working. There are 2 parts to the benefit, one for daily living difficulties and one for mobility difficulties. Each part has 2 levels of payment dependent on your difficulties.

Claim as soon as you think you may be eligible as PIP cannot be backdated but does not commence until you satisfy the disability condition - see below.

All new claimants for DLA within Great Britain will be treated as claims for PIP.

You may consider claiming if you are

- Aged 16 -64 when you claim.
- Having difficulty with daily living activities, - daily living component.
- Having difficulty with mobility - mobility component.
- You satisfy the disability condition for the daily living component or the mobility component for 3 months prior to your claim and 9mths after.

PIP claim line to make your claim:

Telephone: **0800 917 2222**

PIP enquiry line:

Telephone: **0800 121 4433** Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Website: **www.gov.uk/pip**

For hints and tips on completion of the PIP form:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/help-with-your-claim/claim/claim-fill-in-form

www.limbless-association.org/images/PIP_hints_and_tips.pdf

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Disabled living allowance is gradually being replaced by PIP and so new claimants will need to apply for PIP.

DLA is ending for people who were born after 8.4.1948 and are 16 or over. If you are in receipt of DLA the Department for Work and pensions (DWP) will write to you when your award comes up for renewal or you report a change in your condition. They will:

- Tell you when it will end
- Invite you to apply for PIP- See above for further information.

If you were born on or before 8 April 1948 your DLA will continue as long as you remain eligible.

Telephone: **0800 731 0122** Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

If you were born after 8 April 1948 telephone: **0800 121 4600** Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Website: **www.gov.uk/dla-disability-living-allowance-benefit**

Attendance Allowance (AA)

Attendance Allowance helps with some of the extra costs incurred by long-term ill health or disability and for those that need attention with personal care, or need supervision to remain safe. It is based on how your condition affects you, not on the condition itself. It is not means tested and not taxable.

- **Attention:** Help required from another person to fulfil certain personal care needs. Personal care implies tasks of a close personal nature, i.e.: dressing, bathing, or taking medication. It can also include help with communication, seeing, hearing etc.
- **Supervision:** someone needed to be on hand to ensure that you are safe. This is applicable if someone is having unpredictable falls, fits, or has impaired mental capacity.

You may consider claiming if you are

- Aged 65 or over.
- Have a long term illness or disability, have needed help for the last 6mths and expect to need help for the next 6 months.
- Having difficulty managing your personal care and/or indoor mobility.
- Not already receiving Personal Independence payment (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

There are 2 rates of AA dependent on your needs.

It should be noted that if you are claiming AA, it may affect some means tested local authority services or local authority funded care in a care home.

For further information:

www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance

To claim ring the helpline and ask for a date stamped claim form.

Attendance Allowance helpline

Telephone: **0800 731 0122** Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Employment and Support Allowance is a benefit for people of working age who cannot work or whose ability to work is limited by health or disability.

You can claim Employment and Support Allowance if:

- You are aged 16 or over and under state pension age
- You are not entitled to Statutory Sick Pay
- You are present in the UK (some temporary absences are ignored)
- You have limited by ill health or disability.

For further information:

Telephone: **0800 328 5644** Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance/overview

www.limbless-association.org/images/ESA_factsheet.pdf

What if I am on a low income?

If you are working and on a low salary, you may be able to get extra money to up your salary eg Income Support and Working tax Credit.

www.gov.uk/income-support/overview

www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is being replaced gradually and is intended to be simpler than the existing system of benefits and tax credits. It is a means tested benefit for people of working age on low income or out of work and is a monthly payment that replaces some present benefits. income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support

How much you'll get depends on your circumstances, including your income and how many children you have.

You don't need to do anything if you are already claiming existing benefits. You will be told by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) when you have to claim Universal Credit.

Council Tax Reductions

You can apply to your local council for Council Tax Reduction (sometimes called Council Tax Support). You could be eligible if you're on a low income or claim benefits. Your bill could be reduced by up to 100%. You can apply if you own your home, rent, are unemployed or working.

What you get depends on:

- where you live - each council runs its own scheme
- your circumstances (eg income, number of children, benefits, residency status)
- your household income - this includes savings, pensions and your partner's income
- if your children live with you
- if other adults live with you

For further information:

www.gov.uk/apply-council-tax-reduction

Disability Council Tax Reduction Scheme

You may be able to get a reduction in council tax under the Disability Reduction Scheme if anyone resident in the property (adult or child) is 'substantially and permanently disabled'. In addition, one of the following conditions has to be met:

- There is an additional bathroom or kitchen in the property which is needed by the disabled person.
- There is a room (other than a bathroom, kitchen or toilet) needed by and mainly used by the disabled person.
- There is enough space in the property for the disabled person to use a wheelchair indoors.

There is no general test of who is considered 'substantially and permanently disabled'. If a person is registered as disabled with their local council, this should help to satisfy this condition, as should receipt of disability benefits. It could also help to provide supporting evidence from your GP/consultant.

To apply - contact your local council benefits department.

Sick pay

Most people in employment are entitled to sick pay.

- Company sick pay - this is your employers own sick pay scheme. Check your contract to find out what you are entitled to. It may be more generous than SSP or paid on top. Some employers pay in full up to a certain time.
- Statutory sick pay (SSP) - if you aren't entitled to anything under a company scheme, your employer should still pay you SSP if you are eligible.

You may want to look at your conditions of contract to ensure what your contract states regarding your ongoing sick pay.

For further information:

www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay

If you are self-employed, you cannot receive SSP but are able to claim Employment and Support Allowance.

Support for families and careers

Carers Allowance

This is an allowance to help people who provide regular and substantial care for someone with disabilities. It is not means tested but is taxable.

You may get carers allowance if:

- You spend at least 35hrs per week providing care.
- You do not earn more than £110 per week after tax
- You are 16 or over
- You are not in full time education (21 hours or more)
- The person you support receives either Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance at the higher or middle rate component.

You could also get Carer's Credit so there won't be any gaps in your national Insurance record if you have to take on caring responsibilities.

For further information: **www.gov.uk/apply-carers-allowance**

Carers Assessment

As a carer, you are entitled to a carer's assessment. A carer's assessment is not a judgement on how well you provide care. It's an opportunity to talk about how being a carer affects you, and to make sure you get all the help and information available to support you. It can be done at a time and in a place that suits you (away from the person you are caring for, if you would prefer this). As a carer you are entitled to a carer's assessment, even if the person you care for refuses social care services.

You can request a carer's assessment through your local Adult Social Care Service.

Bournemouth: **01202 454979**

Poole: **01202 633902**

Dorset: **01305 221016**

Hampshire: **0300 5551386**

Wiltshire: **0300 456 0111**

These may not be the only benefits that you could claim. For more information on the full range of disability benefits website visit the government's website. www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

Sources of further information and advice.

Department of Work and pensions

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions

Limbless Association - **www.limbless-association.org**

Limbless association Welfare benefits advisor on **0800 6440185** or **01245 216669**

or alternatively you can email on **benefits@limbless-association.org**

Citizens Advice Bureau - **www.citizensadvice.org.uk**

Turn2us - national charity providing practical help to those struggling financially -

www.turn2us.org.uk

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7DW

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