

A Quick Guide to Personal Independence Payment for Healthcare Professionals

WHAT IS PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a new benefit replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people aged 16 to 64 years.

PIP will be introduced in Northern Ireland on 20 June 2016. This will be for new claims to PIP.

DLA claimants will be contacted and assessed for PIP between June 2016 and December 2018.

DLA will remain for children up to the age of 16 years. Anyone aged 65 or over on 20 June 2016 will continue to receive DLA provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

WHAT DOES THE INTRODUCTION OF PIP MEAN FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS?

Healthcare professionals play an important role in PIP. In line with General Medical Council guidelines, contact will only be made where the patient's consent is held.

- DS1500 Report Form – a report about the patient's medical condition that a doctor, specialist or consultant can complete to support a claim under Special Rules for terminal illness. This may be requested by your patient or someone acting on their behalf
- Further evidence may be requested to supplement the information already gathered by the PIP Assessment Provider. This factual information will be requested



by the Assessment Provider (Capita Health and Wellbeing) in a report format. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dsd/esa-medical-reports-guide-to-completion.pdf>

- Claimants are only asked to send in any medical evidence that they already hold to support their claim
- There is no requirement for a claimant to obtain a statement or further evidence from a GP or healthcare professional when claiming PIP.



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THE ASSESSMENT PROVIDER (CAPITA HEALTH AND WELLBEING) MAY CONTACT YOU BY PHONE IN RELATION TO:

- Terminal illness – if a DS1500 is not available or there are questions about it, it may be necessary to contact you to progress the claim quickly
- A factual report – where a report is requested and not returned or to clarify any points on the report
- If having considered all evidence available, the Assessment Provider seeks further clarity on your patient's disability and the impact it has on their daily life

CLAIMING PIP AND ELIGIBILITY

PIP contributes towards the extra costs associated with a health condition or disability. It is assessed on the claimant's ability to undertake a range of everyday activities rather than the condition they have.

HOW PEOPLE CLAIM PIP:

- New claims to PIP are made by phoning 0800 012 1573 (textphone 0800 012 1574)
- There are special rules for claimants who have a terminal illness (expected to live for less than six months). They or someone supporting them should phone and submit a DS1500 form
- Claimants (other than those who are terminally ill) are then sent a form 'How your disability affects you' which they complete and return with any supporting evidence they already hold.

HOW ELIGIBILITY IS ASSESSED

Information on the form is considered by the Assessment Provider who may request further evidence from a healthcare professional. Most people will be asked to attend a face-to-face consultation with a Health Professional as part of their claim but in some cases this may not be necessary.

Claimants will be assessed as to the extent to which they can carry out a number of everyday activities safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and in a reasonable time period. Ability to carry out an activity will be considered over a period of time to take account of the effects of a fluctuating health condition or disability.

SPECIAL RULES FOR CLAIMANTS WHO ARE TERMINALLY ILL

There are Special Rules that exist for claimants who have a terminal illness - those expected to have less than six months to live, to allow them to get help quickly when they claim PIP. Please see Special Rules factsheet for further information. **(Link to be inserted)**



WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

You can find further information on PIP on the DfC website. Further information on PIP for claimants is available on nidirect - www.nidirect.gov.uk/welfarechanges