

Changing from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

If you are currently receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and are concerned about the process of switching over to Personal Independence Payment (PIP), this factsheet outlines the basic information you need to know. If you are not receiving DLA or you are looking for more information on the PIP claims process, see our booklet *Claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP)*.

What is PIP?

PIP is the new benefit introduced by the UK Government to replace DLA for people with a disability. If you are claiming DLA you will not need to do anything about switching over to PIP until the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) writes to you to tell you that you need to change.

I have a lifetime award of DLA. Does that mean I'm automatically eligible for PIP?

No. You will need to apply for PIP as a new benefit. The DWP will contact you when you need to apply for PIP.

When will I need to change to PIP?

As the government is rolling this benefit out gradually, the date you will be expected to change over to PIP will depend on your individual circumstances.

If you were aged 65 on or before 8 April 2013, you will continue to receive DLA and you will not be reassessed for PIP. If you were aged between 16

and 64 on 8 April 2013 and receive DLA, you will be reassessed for PIP at some stage. The DWP no longer give any dates by which claimants can be expected to be contacted or reassessed.

You do not need to apply for PIP until you receive a letter asking you to begin the PIP claims process. Your DLA award will be reassessed under PIP where:

- you report a change in how your health condition or disability affects you
- you have a current DLA award that is due to expire (a renewal claim)

If you are invited to claim, you should claim.

How will I know what I need to do and when?

When you report a change in your condition or your DLA is up for renewal you will be sent a letter explaining that you now have to make a claim for PIP. Once you receive this letter, you will have four weeks in which to start the PIP claims process. During the process you will keep receiving DLA until a decision on your eligibility for PIP is made.

If you miss the four week deadline to begin your claim, your DLA will be suspended for four weeks. If you do not claim within a further four weeks of the suspension coming into effect, your DLA award will be stopped completely. Once a decision on your PIP entitlement has been made, your DLA will run for a further 28 days, whether or not your PIP claim

has been successful.

The one exception is for people who are terminally ill. If you are terminally ill and you get DLA, you must now claim PIP. You can qualify for the higher rate of benefit from the day after the DLA payment period has ended or from the first Tuesday after the PIP decision (whichever is earlier).

Will PIP affect my Carer's Allowance payment?

Both DLA and PIP are qualifying benefits for Carer's Allowance. So, as long as the person you care for is eligible for PIP, you will still be able to claim Carer's Allowance. For more information on PIP or any of the other benefits you may be entitled to, see our booklet *Benefits and MS*.

How will the change from DLA to PIP affect the Motability scheme?

If you currently receive the higher rate mobility component of DLA and use it to access the Motability scheme, you will continue to do so until you receive a decision on your PIP claim. If you receive the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of PIP, you will be able to claim Motability as you do now. If you do not qualify for the enhanced rate of PIP, you will be asked to return the car or equipment within 21 days.

For some people who, after their PIP reassessment, are no longer eligible for the Motability Scheme, Motability provides a one-off transitional package of support towards alternative mobility arrangements. Visit Motability's website at www.motability.co.uk or contact them on 0845 456 4566 for more details.

Useful organisations

Benefits Shop (Northern Ireland)

Run by the Northern Ireland Department for Social Development, the office can give advice about benefits, including help with completing forms.

Ground Floor Castle Court

Royal Avenue

Belfast BT1 1DF

 028 9033 6958

Textphone 028 9033 6206

 ssabenefitshop@nissa.gsi.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

Help with welfare rights, housing and disability advice. Local offices are listed in the telephone directory and on the national websites.

 www.adviceguide.org.uk

Scotland

 www.cas.org.uk

In Scotland, free telephone advice is available on (weekdays 9am–8pm and Saturdays 10am–2pm).

 0808 800 9060

 www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Disability information Scotland

 0300 323 9961

 www.disabilityscot.org.uk

Northern Ireland

www.citizensadvice.co.uk

SCOPE

Disability-related advice and information including details on benefits.

 0808 800 3333 (weekdays 9am–5pm)

 www.scope.org.uk/dial

About this resource

Disclaimer: We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication is correct. We do not accept liability for any errors or omissions. The law and government regulations may change. Be sure to seek local advice from the sources listed.

Let us know what you think

If you have any comments on this information or on the work of the MS Society, please send them to resources@mssociety.org.uk, or you can complete our short online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/MSresources

References

A list of references is available on request, and all cited articles are available to borrow from the MS Society library (there may be a small charge). Contact the librarian on 020 8438 0900, or visit www.mssociety.org.uk/library

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September 2016.

This title will be reviewed within three years of publication.

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Further information from the MS Society

Library

For more information, research articles and DVDs about MS, contact our librarian.

020 8438 0900

librarian@mssociety.org.uk

www.mssociety.org.uk/library

Resources

Our award winning information resources cover every aspect of living with MS.

020 8438 0999

shop@mssociety.org.uk

www.mssociety.org.uk/publications

Helpline

The Freephone MS Helpline offers confidential emotional support and information for anyone affected by MS, including family, friends and carers.

Information is available in over 150 languages through an interpreter service.

0808 800 8000 (weekdays 9am–9pm)

helpline@mssociety.org.uk

The Multiple Sclerosis Society

More than 100,000 people live with multiple sclerosis in the UK. Every one of them shares the uncertainty of life with MS. We're funding research and fighting for better treatment and care to help people with MS take control of their lives.

With your support, we will beat MS.

Contact us

MS National Centre

 020 8438 0700

 info@mssociety.org.uk

MS Helpline

 Freephone 0808 800 8000
(weekdays 9am-9pm)

 helpline@mssociety.org.uk

Online

 www.mssociety.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/mssociety

 www.twitter.com/mssocietyuk

MS Society Scotland

 0131 335 4050

 msscotland@mssociety.org.uk

MS Society Northern Ireland

 028 9080 2802

 nireception@mssociety.org.uk

MS Society Cymru

 020 8438 0700

 mscymru@mssociety.org.uk

As a charity, we rely on the generosity of people like you to fund our vital work. Thousands of people affected by MS turn to us for help and advice each year, and we want to make sure we are there for them whenever they need us. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by:

- Calling us on: **0300 500 8084**.
Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm
- Visiting us at: **mssociety.org.uk/donate**
- Posting your donation to: MS Society, National Centre, 372 Edgware Road, London NW2 6ND.
Please make cheques payable to the 'MS Society.'

Multiple Sclerosis Society

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