



# OVERVIEW OF P.I.P (PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT)

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MANAGER

CARERS' SUPPORT (BEXLEY)

- PIP is a weekly benefit which has replaced DLA for people of working age which is from age 16.
- DLA for children under 16 is NOT affected.
- PIP shares some common features with DLA but the assessment is not the same and the claims process is different.
- It is paid to people who have difficulties with daily living, because of physical or mental illness or disability, or who have difficulty getting around. You can get both the daily living component and the mobility component or just one of them.
- You don't need to have a recognised or diagnosed medical condition to qualify.
- You do not need to have paid any national insurance contributions. You can get PIP even if you live alone and no one is giving you the help you need. You can still claim even if you get help from the NHS or Bexley social services.
- PIP isn't taxable and it doesn't matter how much other money you have coming in. Receiving PIP will never mean that your other benefits reduce. It may even lead to your means-tested benefits increasing e.g. if you also have to claim Universal Credit.
- You are free to spend any PIP award on whatever you like.

- You will be “invited” to claim PIP near to when a DLA claim is coming to an end.
- There is NO LINK and so no automatic transfer process between any existing DLA claim and a new claim for PIP. They are two separate benefits. The DWP therefore treat a new claim for PIP as an application from a brand new person who has never claimed a disability benefit before.
- A first PIP claim is simply that and should be treated as the first time that the DWP have received a claim for that person who is totally unknown to them. This applies even if you have an indefinite award for DLA.
- This means that there are no rules around transferring from DLA to PIP; if you don’t apply when “invited” then the DLA claim will stop and no disability benefit will replace it.
- To claim PIP call the DWP to start/register a claim and complete part one of the form with them over the phone. Someone else can do this on behalf of the claimant if they have been officially appointed to deal with their claims. Otherwise, the claimant needs to be present to confirm their identity during this phone call.
- In some situations, part one of the form can be posted to you and as I understand it, you can request this during this first phone call or request in writing to the DWP by letter.
- **The Phone number to start the claim process for PIP is 0800 917 2222**

- During that first phone call you need to have to hand for the claimant the NINO, address, phone number, date of birth, bank/building society details, doctor's details and of any health/social care worker that supports you. Plus any recent periods spent abroad, in hospital or in residential care.
- You will then be sent the PIP2 form which is the main part of the claim.
- You must normally return the completed form within one month of the date it was issued to you.
- The return date will be on the covering letter that is issued with the form.
- This deadline can be extended if you're having problems getting help to get the form completed; call the claim line number as soon as possible to get an extension which is normally an extra two weeks on top of the original date. This would mean that rather than have four weeks to complete the form you would have six.
- However, this doesn't take into account the length of time it takes for the PIP2 to be posted to you once requested which can be anything up to two weeks. So often a claimant may only have one week to complete the form before needing to get it back to the DWP in time. Therefore, the time extension offered is very regularly used and so don't feel afraid to phone the DWP to ask for the same.
- If the form gets back late and the DWP haven't been forewarned, it may be rejected.

## HOW IS PIP MADE UP?

- PIP, like DLA, has two components; daily living and mobility. Someone may qualify for either or both depending on how their disability or health condition affects their ability to carry out specific activities.
- Each component has two rates which represent a weekly award; daily living standard rate is currently £72.65 and the enhanced rate is £108.55. From April, these rates increase to £73.90 and £110.40 respectively.
- The mobility standard rate is £28.70 and the enhanced rate is £75.75. From April these rates increase to £29.20 and £77.05 respectively.
- The assessment for the components involves scoring points for a set of activities.
- There are ten daily living activities and two mobility activities. Each activity has a list of statements, called descriptors, describing varying levels of difficulties with the activity and help that may be needed to manage it.
- For example, to get the standard rate of the daily living component, the ability to undertake daily living activities must be limited by a physical or mental health condition. A score of 8 points or more is required for an award.
- To get the enhanced rate of the daily living component, the ability to undertake daily living activities must be severely limited and a score of 12 points or more

## DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES

- Preparing food
- Taking nutrition
- Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition
- Washing and bathing
- Managing toilet needs or incontinence
- Dressing and undressing
- Communicating verbally
- Reading and understanding signs symbols and words
- Engaging with other people face to face
- Making budgeting decisions

## MOBILITY COMPONENT

- Planning and following journeys
- Moving around

## SCORING POINTS

- The score for each activity depends on how well a task can be carried out and how much help is needed to carry it out.
- Each activity has descriptors which carry points. Points are only scored for one descriptor within each activity but if more than one applies then the one that scores highest is chosen. The descriptor must be satisfied over 50% of the time.
- This is why when completing a form always focus on the very worse days to highlight fully how bad needs can be and therefore how high the level of support needs to be.
- For the descriptor to apply, the task must be able to be completed safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and within a reasonable time period.
- Points may be scored for needing assistance, supervision, prompting or needing to use an aid or appliance to perform activities.



## THE HEALTH CONSULTATION

- Most claimants will be asked to attend a consultation with an independent health professional but experience has taught us that their backgrounds can vary.
- Pre-covid, consultations were nearly always face to face until they were suspended. Claimants may still be offered a telephone, paper based or video consultation. Expect though that your assessment will be in person.
- You can accompany someone to their consultation and, with prior arrangement, you can ask to record the appointment whether this is on the phone/video or face to face.
- If you cannot attend the consultation appointment that is offered, contact PIP to rearrange the date and/or time without delay. A PIP claim will be rejected if the consultation is missed without good cause.
- During the consultation, the health professional will ask about the health condition/disabilities and the claimant's daily life. They will look at the claim form and any medical evidence from a GP or consultant.
- Despite what the DWP say – see slide 2 “You don't need to have a recognised or diagnosed medical condition to qualify”, the DWP do use medical evidence as part of a PIP claim. Our experience has taught us that the DWP often refer to its absence when dealing with a claim and so our advice would be to always have medical documents/reports to send in with a claim.



FINALLY.....

The good news is that WE CAN HELP! Phone 0208 302 8011 and ask to talk to myself, Felicity, or my colleague, Claire Hunt.

We will ask you to give us the return by date for the PIP2 form when you phone.

For general advice visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)



And finally...

I hope that this has been of use to you and  
informative.

Any questions?

Thanks for listening!

