

Personal Independence Payments

The following information has been compiled using publicly accessible sources. Autism West Midlands cannot give individual benefit advice.

The Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit for people with disabilities, which replaces the Disability Living Allowance (DLA). The framework for PIP is similar to that of DLA. PIPs do not depend on how much money you have or how much you earn. They are tax free payments to support people with disabilities and long term illnesses. PIPs are made up of two parts:

1. A daily living component
2. A mobility component.

Whether you receive one or both of these depends on how your condition affects you.

What is PIP?

- PIP is a benefit for people with disabilities.
- PIP is a cash benefit and can be spent however you need to spend it.
- PIP can be paid to people regardless of whether they are working or in education.
- PIP can be paid to people who are also getting other benefits such as Employment and Support Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance or Universal Credit.
- PIP is not means-tested (it doesn't matter how much money you have when you are applying for PIP).
- To receive PIP you need to complete a claim form.
- You cannot make a new claim for PIP after you turn 65, but if you are already receiving PIP you are still eligible for the benefit after the age of 65.

How do I qualify for PIP?

To qualify for PIP, you must:

- Be aged between 16 and 64
- Satisfy the daily living and/or mobility activities test
- Meet the qualifying period of 3 months prior to the claim
- Meet the prospective period test of at least 9 months after claiming
- Meet the residence and presence test and also the habitual residence test.

The PIP components

PIP components can be paid at either a standard or an enhanced rate.

The daily living component

The standard rate for the daily living component is paid if 'the person's ability to carry out daily living activities is limited by the person's physical or mental condition'.

The enhanced rate for the daily living component is paid if 'the person's ability to carry out daily living activities is severely limited by the person's physical or mental condition'.

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The mobility component

The standard rate for the mobility component is paid if 'the person's ability to carry out mobility activities is limited by the person's physical or mental condition'.

The enhanced rate will be paid if 'the person's ability to carry out mobile activities is severely limited by the person's physical or mental condition'.

Assessment

When you make a claim for PIP, you will have to take part in an assessment on your ability to carry out daily living and mobility activities. The only exception to this is if you suffer from a terminal illness and are not expected to live for more than six months.

The assessment is a 'points based' test with scores given on the basis of limitations in prescribed activities. These activities are divided into daily living activities and mobility activities. Under each of these activities there will be a list of criteria which will have scores given depending on limitation.

Daily Living Activities	Mobility Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparing food• Eating and drinking• Managing your treatments• Washing and bathing• Managing your toilet needs• Dressing and undressing• Communicating• Reading• Mixing with other people• Making decisions about money	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and following journeys• Moving around

Further resources

www.dwp.gov.uk – Department for Work and Pensions website provides access to consultation documents, policy briefing and updates to legislation and decision makers' guidance

www.cpag.org.uk – access to information on welfare benefit matters including policy briefings and campaigns/consultations

www.disabilityalliance.org – Disability Rights UK website with factsheets and reviews on welfare reform proposals