

# WHAT IS PIP?

This fact sheet has been written by parent carers for parent carers



**Personal Independence Payment or PIP** is a benefit for working age people who face extra challenges carrying out everyday activities or getting out and about.

A claimant must have had additional needs for at least three months, and expect to have the same needs for at least the next nine months. Residency rules also mean they have to have been living in the UK for two out of the last three years.

PIP is not taxed or counted as income for means tested benefits. It's not based on National Insurance contributions and can be paid both in and out of work.

## How is PIP awarded?

PIP is paid in two parts: a **mobility component** based on a young person's ability to get around, and a **daily living component** based on their ability to look after themselves. Each component of PIP is paid at one of two rates known as the standard and enhanced rate.

**The PIP assessment focuses on a young person's ability to carry out 12 everyday activities.**

These include preparing a meal, communicating, handling money or planning and following a journey.

PIP uses a **points-based system**, to decide whether someone qualifies for the benefit, and if they do at what rate they will be paid. You score points when you are not able to complete a task **'reliably'**, which means safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and in a reasonable time. Some activities attract more points than others. To make a successful claim for PIP, a young person needs to score 8 points to qualify for the standard rate of the component and 12 points for the enhanced rate. You can read more about this in our companion fact sheet 'Tips for claiming PIP'.

For most young people, the new PIP assessment process will also involve a **face to face meeting** with a health professional.

Under PIP no-one, (other than people who are terminally ill) will have any automatic entitlement.

**Nearly all awards will be time limited**, with very few indefinite awards. Most awards are likely to be shorter and reviewed more frequently than awards for DLA.

## When will a young person need to claim PIP?

There is **no automatic migration between DLA and PIP**. Everyone aged 16 and over who gets DLA, will be contacted, over time, and invited to claim PIP. Even young people with indefinite or lifetime awards of DLA will be reassessed under PIP.

If a claimant is nearly 16 or they are over 16 and their existing DLA award is coming to an end, they'll get a letter to tell them when and how to apply for PIP.

If the claimant is over 16 and getting DLA, and you report a change in 'circumstances', which might affect the rate of their award, they will be reassessed under PIP.

If a claimant is 16 or over and has never claimed DLA, they will need to claim PIP instead. You cannot apply for PIP until you are 16, so there are special arrangements allowing current DLA awards to run on after someone's 16th birthday, until a decision is made on their PIP claim. We understand these claims are looked at by a specialist team of decision makers.





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You can choose to make an application for PIP even if a claimant has an indefinite award of DLA. This would make sense where they are likely to be awarded a higher rate under PIP than their current DLA award. For example, if they have high support needs throughout the day but not at night.

You need to act promptly as soon as the Department for Work and Pensions writes to you or your child about PIP. If neither of you reply to the invitation to apply for PIP, their DLA award will be suspended four weeks later. If a claim is made within four weeks after the suspension, the DLA award will be restored until a decision is made on the PIP claim. If you do nothing during the four weeks suspension, a DLA claim will end permanently eight weeks after they wrote to you. There will only be limited appeal rights against this decision.

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### How to start a claim

PIP claims begin over the phone. Ring the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) on 0800 917 2222. You can call on behalf of a young person but they should be with you when you do this.

You will be asked for basic details like your child's name (or your name if you're the claimant), address, date of birth and main area of difficulty. You will also need to give the claimant's National Insurance number, doctor's or health worker's names and have information to hand about time spent abroad, in a residential school, care home or hospital. The DWP will also ask for bank or building society details. You will be sent a 'How your condition affects you' form. The claim pack will have the claimant's details printed on it. It comes with notes to help you fill it in.

Use the time while you are waiting for the claim pack to arrive to get organised. You will need as much evidence as you can muster. If you can't find your own copies of reports or assessments, ring the advice givers now and get more sent. If you have no advices, but feel the claimant still has very significant extra needs, think about paying for an independent assessment. Without supporting evidence, a claim is unlikely to be successful.

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### Special rules for life limiting illness

If someone is diagnosed with a life limiting illness and is unlikely to live more than six months, they can claim PIP under Special Rules. They will automatically be awarded the high rate care component and don't need to meet retrospective or prospective tests.

Ask your consultant for a DS1500 report and send it with the claim. If you'd rather not read what they write, ask for the DS1500 to be handed to you in a sealed envelope, or give the parts of the claim you have completed to the consultant or specialist nurse: they will be happy to send it for you. The DWP aims to make decisions about these claims within eight days.

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### Extra benefits if you get PIP

PIP is a passport to disability premiums and extra child Tax Credits in the current benefits system. As Universal Credit (UC) is rolled out, if a young person is included in their parent's UC claim, a disabled child amount will be payable in their household's award. Any household that includes someone getting PIP will also be exempt from the benefit cap.

If a young person is entitled to the daily living component of PIP, then someone else may be able to claim Carer's Allowance for looking after them.

Getting the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP may entitle a young person to access the Motability scheme and a Blue Badge.





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### Ask about

- **Support from Amaze.** Amaze helpline workers can give you advice on making PIP claims. We may also be able to offer you a trained volunteer or member of staff to help you fill in your PIP form. Call Amaze on 01273 772289 or email [helpline@amazebrighton.org.uk](mailto:helpline@amazebrighton.org.uk)
- **Support from other disability organisations: Possability People** (formerly The Fed Centre for Independent Living) can give disabled adults and parent carers support with making claims for disability benefits. Call 01273 296747. Assert and Aspire may be able to support young people with high functioning autism and Asperger's Syndrome with making a claim. Contact Assert via [www.assertbh.org.uk](http://www.assertbh.org.uk) and Aspire via [www.bh-impetus.org/projects/aspire](http://www.bh-impetus.org/projects/aspire)
- **General benefits and financial advice: Citizen's Advice Bureau** can give help with benefits claims. Call 01273 223951 or visit [www.brightonhovecab.org.uk](http://www.brightonhovecab.org.uk). **Money Advice Plus** can offer advice and support with debt and benefits. Call 0800 988 7037 or visit [www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk)
- **PIP enquiry line: 0345 850 3322** for general help and advice on PIP
- **Help with transport:** You may be able to get a Blue Badge or a disabled parking bay outside your house. Contact **Parking Services** on 01273 296270. Or you may use the mobility component of your PIP or DLA award to lease a car or scooter via the **Motability** scheme. Call 0300 456 4566 or visit [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

### Further reading and useful links

- **Making a strong PIP claim** – Download this Amaze/Reaching Families fact sheet at [www.amazebrighton.org.uk/resources/publications/fact-sheets](http://www.amazebrighton.org.uk/resources/publications/fact-sheets)
- **Through the Next Maze** – Amaze's handbook for parent carers of young people with SEN and disabilities (14+) has extensive information on PIP and other benefits. Request a copy via our helpline on 01273 772289.
- **Personal Independence Payment - A guide to making a claim.** Helpful guide from Disability Rights UK which includes the scoring system for the 12 activities. [www.disabilityrightsuk.org](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org)
- **[www.gov.uk/PIP/overview](http://www.gov.uk/PIP/overview)** - Personal Independence Payment info on government's website

