

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 before October 2017.

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)
- you choose to be reassessed under PIP

If your DLA award is due to expire and you received a renewal letter before 28 October 2013, your renewal claim will go ahead as a DLA claim. After 28 October 2013 the date the reassessments change to PIP depends on which part of the country you live in. Up-to-date information on when PIP is being introduced in different areas is available on the gov.uk website. The DWP may write to you and invite you to apply for PIP early, before your renewal is due. You do not have to apply for it at this time. The choice is yours. You may wish to speak to an advice agency about your individual situation before you decide if you want to apply early or not. Contact your local Citizens Advice, DIAL or your local authority's welfare rights service. Your local

MS Society branch may know of benefits advice services in your area.

See 'Useful organisations' for contact details.

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. A reminder will be sent to you after two weeks, following which the DWP will try to contact you by phone. The four weeks can be extended in exceptional circumstances, for example, if you have recently gone into hospital. The DLA will be reinstated once your PIP claim is made. 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. 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. 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

To find local offices:

England and Wales

 www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Scotland

 www.cas.org.uk

In Scotland, telephone advice is available on 0808 800 9060 (weekdays 9am–8pm and Saturdays 10am–2pm). Or for email enquiries and live web chat visit

 www.citizensadvisedirect.org.uk

Northern Ireland

www.citizensadvice.co.uk

DIAL – Disability Information Advice Line

Disability-related advice and information including details on benefits. In Scotland, see also Update.

 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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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

The MS Society provides this information free of charge but if you would like to help cover the cost, which will help towards our essential work, please call 0800 100 133 or visit the fundraising section of our website to make a donation [Donate Now]. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Multiple Sclerosis Society

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