

# The UK Health & Care System and Independent Living Explored

- Disability Living Allowance (Adult, Child)  
(Mobility Allowance included in the above)
- Personal Independence Payment  
(Mobility Allowance included in the above)
- Attendance Allowance
- NHS Continuing Healthcare
- Personal Health Budgets

# Disability Living Allowance for Children (DLA)

- New claims of DLA are for children only and for those who need extra looking after or have walking difficulties
- Payment is made every 4 weeks and consists of a Care Component having 3 rate levels and a Mobility Component that has 2 levels of payment
- The child might qualify for one or both payments.
- Spending at least 35 hours per week caring for a child who gets the middle or highest care rate of DLA may give entitlement to a Carers Allowance
  
- To Apply contact the DLA Helpline:  
Telephone: **0800 121 4600**  
Textphone: **0800 121 4523**

# Disability Living Allowance for Adults (DLA)

- Those born on or before 8 April 1948 claiming DLA will stay on it
- Those born after 8 April 1948 will transfer from DLA to a Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Payment is made every 4 weeks and consists of a Care Component having 3 rate levels and a Mobility Component that has 2 levels of payment
- If there is a change of circumstances contact the Disability Service Centre on:  
Telephone: **0800 121 4600**  
TextPhone: **0800 121 4523**

# Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

- You can get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) whether you're working or not.
- You must be aged 16 or over and usually have not reached State Pension age to claim.
- You must also have a physical or mental health condition or disability where you:
  - a) have had difficulties with daily living or getting around (or both) for 3 months
  - b) expect these difficulties to continue for at least 9 months
- The daily living part of PIP is paid at 1 of 2 weekly rates
- The mobility part of PIP is paid at 1 of 2 weekly rates

# Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

**To make a new Personal Independence Payment claim  
call the Department for Work and Pensions**

Before you call, you'll need:

- your contact details, for example telephone number
- your date of birth
- your National Insurance number - this is on letters about tax, pensions and benefits
- your bank or building society account number and sort code
- your doctor or health worker's name, address and telephone number
- dates and addresses for any time you've spent in a care home or hospital
- dates for any time you spent abroad for more than 4 weeks at a time, and the countries you visited

Telephone: **0800 917 2222**

Textphone: **0800 917 7777**

# Attendance Allowance

- Attendance Allowance helps with extra costs if you have a disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you
- It's paid at 2 different rates and how much you get depends on the level of care that you need because of your disability.
- You need to be both:
  - a) physically or mentally disabled and require care or supervision
  - b) of state pension age or older
- You have needed help for at least 6 months (unless you're terminally ill)
- It does not cover mobility needs
- The other benefits you get can increase if you get Attendance Allowance
- You do not have to have someone caring for you in order to claim
- If you do have a carer, they could get Carer's Allowance if you have substantial caring needs

# Attendance Allowance

## How to Claim

Use the [Attendance Allowance claim form](#) to apply by post. The form comes with notes telling you how to fill it in.

Send the completed form to: Freepost DWP Attendance Allowance

You do not need a postcode or a stamp.

- Call the Attendance Allowance helpline to ask for:
- a copy of the form
- alternative formats, such as braille, large print or audio CD
- **Attendance Allowance helpline**  
Telephone: 0800 731 0122  
Textphone: 0800 731 0317

# NHS Continuing Healthcare

- Some people with long-term complex health needs qualify for free social care arranged and funded solely by the NHS
- NHS continuing healthcare can be provided in your own home
- It is for eligible adults\* assessed by a multidisciplinary team of health professionals who consider the following:
  - a) what help you need
  - b) how complex your needs are
  - c) how intense your needs can be
  - d) how unpredictable they are, including any risks to your health if the right care is not provided at the right time.
- If you are in receipt of either Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance when you become eligible for continuing healthcare it is advisable to contact the AA and DLA units on 08457 123456 to inform them of the change

\* Children and young people may receive a "continuing care package" if they have needs arising from disability, accident or illness that cannot be met by existing universal or specialist services alone



# NHS Continuing Healthcare

## Application and Assessment

- To be eligible for NHS continuing healthcare, you must be assessed by a team of healthcare professionals (a multidisciplinary team)
- The initial checklist assessment can be completed by a nurse, doctor, other healthcare professional or social worker
- If successful you will be referred for a full assessment
- You can start the process by asking a social worker, GP or other health and social care professional to organise this – or you can contact the Continuing Healthcare team at the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- An organisation called Beacon gives free independent advice on NHS continuing healthcare. Visit the [Beacon website](#) or call the free helpline on 0345 548 0300
- If you're eligible for NHS continuing healthcare, the next stage is to arrange a care and support package that meets your assessed needs and consider the option of a Personal Health Budget

# Personal Health Budgets (PHBs)

A personal health budget is an amount of money to support your health and wellbeing needs, which is planned and agreed between you (or someone who represents you), and your local NHS team. It is not new money, but it may mean spending money differently so that you can get the care that you need.

The budget allows you to manage your healthcare and support such as treatments, equipment and personal care, in a way that suits you. It works in a similar way to personal budgets, which allow people to manage and pay for their social care needs.

Adults living at home receiving NHS Continuing Healthcare and children receiving it have the right to have a personal health budget as do people with mental health problems who are eligible for section 117 after-care as a result of being detained under certain sections of the Mental Health Act. People who meet the eligibility criteria of the local wheelchair service and those already registered with it are eligible for a personal wheelchair budget.

To see if you are eligible visit [www.nhs.uk/personalhealthbudgets](http://www.nhs.uk/personalhealthbudgets) or contact your local clinical commissioning group.

# References

## Web Links:

- [Disability Living Allowance \(Children\)](#) GOV.UK
- [Disability Living Allowance \(Adults\)](#) GOV.UK
- [Personal Independence Payment](#) GOV.UK
- [Attendance Allowance](#) NHS
- [NHS Continuing Healthcare](#) NHS
- [Children's Continuing Care Package](#) NHS
- [Personal Health Budgets](#) NHS