

Disability Living Allowance

If you have Parkinson's, you might be worried about how you'll manage financially. If you need help with your day-to-day needs, this can lead to extra costs. But there is some financial support available, so it's important to find out what benefits you're entitled to.

This information explains what Disability Living Allowance is, and how your claim might be affected by recent changes to the system.

The information in this publication is correct as of April 2019, but is subject to change.

Important changes

It's no longer possible for people aged between 16 and 64 to make a new claim for Disability Living Allowance. Instead, you'll need to make a claim for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Find out more: [see our information on Personal Independence Payment.](#)

Disability Living Allowance will continue to be available to new claimants under 16. If you haven't already claimed DLA and you're 65 or over, you should consider claiming Attendance Allowance instead.

Find out more: [see our information on Attendance Allowance.](#)

If you already receive Disability Living Allowance and your circumstances change, you'll normally be invited to claim PIP. You will not have the choice to stay on Disability Living Allowance.

You'll be asked to claim PIP if:

- you report a change in your care or mobility needs
- you reach the end of an existing award of Disability Living Allowance, **or**
- you reach the age of 16 (unless you're terminally ill).

Other existing claimants are also now being invited to claim PIP, chosen at random by the Department

for Work and Pensions (the Disability and Carers Service in Northern Ireland). This will not apply, however, if you were aged 65 or over on 8 April 2013 (20 June 2016 in Northern Ireland) – in this case, you'll remain on Disability Living Allowance.

If you think you have grounds for a review of your Disability Living Allowance, you should contact our helpline on **0808 800 0303** or email **hello@parkinsons.org.uk** for information and advice.

It's very important that if you're asking for a review of your benefit that you understand the possible consequences. The amount of money you receive may go up or down.

What is Disability Living Allowance?

Disability Living Allowance is a benefit for you, not for a carer (if you have one), and you don't need to have someone supporting or caring for you to qualify.

If you're awarded this benefit, it's entirely up to you how you use it. You can still claim if you're in employment.

Disability Living Allowance has two parts or 'components'. You can get either component or both together, depending on your condition.

DLA is now aimed at children aged 0-16. It looks for care and mobility problems that are additional to the care and mobility needs of a child of the same age.

The care component

This part is paid to people who need help with their personal care and/or safety.

There are three rates to this component and the rate you're awarded depends on the amount of care or supervision you need. It's based on the help you need – not on the help you actually get.

It doesn't matter whether you live alone or with other people, or if you receive a lot of help or a little.

The mobility component

This is paid to people who have problems walking around outside the home. It has two rates. The

rate you're awarded depends on the nature of your walking difficulties.

How much can I get?

You can get one of three rates of the care component and one of two rates of the mobility component. All the rates are weekly.

Care component

Highest rate: £87.65

Middle rate: £58.70

Lowest rate: £23.20

Mobility component

Higher rate: £61.20

Lower rate: £23.20

Does my Disability Living Allowance affect any other benefits?

Getting Disability Living Allowance may increase the amount of any means-tested benefits you receive, such as Housing Benefit or Working Tax Credit. Disability Living Allowance can be paid in addition to any other social security benefits.

Disability Living Allowance is not taxable. It's not based on National Insurance contributions and any income or savings you may have do not affect it.

How is Disability Living Allowance paid?

Disability Living Allowance is normally paid every four weeks into a bank, building society or Post Office card account.

Find out more: if you don't have a bank account, have a look at [our general information about benefits](#). This explains how to get a bank account.

What if I go into hospital?

If you go into hospital, Disability Living Allowance will stop after a total of four weeks (either in one stay, or several stays, where the gaps between stays are no more than four weeks each time). It can restart when you return home.

Disability Living Allowance will not be affected by a hospital stay if you're aged under 18.

What if I go into a care home?

If you pay your own fees for the care home without help from the local authority or health service, your Disability Living Allowance can continue to be paid.

If the local authority helps with the fees, the care component will stop after a total of four weeks (either in one stay, or several stays, where the gaps between stays are no more than four weeks each time). It can restart when you return home. The mobility component is not affected, even if the local authority helps with the fees.

If a nursing home is paid for by the health service, both the care and mobility components will usually stop after four weeks and restart when you return home.

How long is Disability Living Allowance awarded for?

Disability Living Allowance is awarded for a fixed period of time. This could be for just one year, or a longer period if your condition is not likely to change.

What if my condition changes?

If you have only one component of Disability Living Allowance, or a lower rate of one component and your condition gets worse, you can ask for your claim to be reviewed.

Be aware, however, that if you were aged under 65 on 8 April 2013 (20 June 2016 in Northern Ireland) and your claim is reviewed, you will usually be invited to make a claim for Personal Independence Payment rather than continue on Disability Living Allowance (see the section 'Important changes' on page 1).

Since the rules for PIP are different to those for Disability Living Allowance (and are generally tighter), you should try to get advice and information on the PIP claims process before asking for a review.

If you were aged 65 or over on the qualifying date in 2013, you will remain on Disability Living Allowance even if your claim is reviewed.

Find out more: see our information on [Personal Independence Payment](#).

If you think you have grounds for a review of your Disability Living Allowance, you should contact our helpline on **0808 800 0303** or email **hello@parkinsons.org.uk** for more information.

Parkinson's nurses

Parkinson's nurses provide expert advice and support to people with Parkinson's and those who care for them. They can also make contact with other health and social care professionals to make sure your needs are met.

The role of the Parkinson's nurse varies. Each will offer different services, aiming to meet local needs. Some nurses are based in the community, whereas others are based in hospital settings.

Many Parkinson's nurses are independent prescribers. This means they can prescribe and make adjustments to medication, so someone with Parkinson's doesn't always need to see their specialist for changes to or queries about their Parkinson's drugs.

Parkinson's nurses may not be available in every area, but your GP or specialist can give you more details on local services.

You can find out more at parkinsons.org.uk/nurses



5. Has it helped you manage your condition better, or make choices that have improved your life in some way?

It helped a lot It helped a little No change It didn't help It made things worse

6. What is your ethnic background?*

Asian or Asian British Black or Black British Chinese Mixed White British White other
 Other (please specify)

*We ask about your ethnicity to ensure our information is reaching a broad range of people. However, this question is optional.

Want to hear more from us?

I would like a response to my feedback I would like to be a member of Parkinson's UK
 I'm interested in joining the Information review group, to offer feedback on Parkinson's UK information

If you've answered yes to any of these options, please complete your details below.

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

How would you prefer us to contact you? Email Post Phone

We will not pass on your details to any other organisation or third party. To find out more, read our privacy policy at parkinsons.org.uk/termsandconditions

More information and support

You can call our free confidential helpline for general support and information. Call **0808 800 0303** (calls are free from UK landlines and most mobile networks) or email **hello@parkinsons.org.uk**.

Our helpline can put you in touch with one of our Parkinson's local advisers, who give one-to-one information and support to anyone affected by Parkinson's. They can also provide links to local groups and services.

Our website **parkinsons.org.uk** has a lot of information about Parkinson's and everyday life with the condition. You can also find details of your local support team and your nearest local group meeting at **parkinsons.org.uk/localtoyou**

Visit **parkinsons.org.uk/forum** to chat to other people with similar experiences on our online discussion forum.



Disability Living Allowance (WB03/2019)

Do you have any feedback about this information? Your comments will help us ensure our resources are as useful and easy to understand as possible. Please return to **Information Content team, Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ**, or email **publications@parkinsons.org.uk**. Thank you!

1. Please choose the option that best fits you.

- I have Parkinson's and was diagnosed in I care for someone with Parkinson's
 I have a friend or family member with Parkinson's I'm a professional working with people with Parkinson's
 Other (please specify)
-

2. Where did you get this information from?

- GP Specialist Parkinson's nurse Parkinson's UK local group Parkinson's UK local adviser
 Ordered directly from us Call to the helpline
 Other (please specify)
-

3. Has it answered all your questions?

- Yes, completely Yes, mostly Not sure Partly Not at all

4. How easy was it to understand?

- Very easy Easy Not sure Quite difficult Very difficult

Thank you

Thank you to benefits specialist Barbara Knight for helping to update this information.

Can you help?

At Parkinson's UK, we are totally dependent on donations from individuals and organisations to fund the work that we do. There are many ways that you can help us to support people with Parkinson's. If you would like to get involved, please contact our Supporter Services team on **0800 138 6593** or visit our website at parkinsons.org.uk/donate. Thank you.

Our information

All of our most up-to-date information is available at parkinsons.org.uk/information-support. If you'd prefer to read one of our printed leaflets or booklets, find out how to place an order at parkinsons.org.uk/ordering-resources or by calling **0300 123 3689**.

We make every effort to ensure that our services provide current, unbiased and accurate information. We hope that this will add to any professional advice you receive and help you to make any decisions you may face. Please do continue to talk to your health and social care team if you are worried about any aspect of living with Parkinson's.

If you'd like to find out more about how we put our information together, including references and the sources of evidence we use, please contact us at publications@parkinsons.org.uk

We're the Parkinson's charity that drives better care, treatments and quality of life.

Together we can bring forward the day when no one fears Parkinson's.

Parkinson's UK
215 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 1EJ

Free confidential helpline **0808 800 0303**
(Monday to Friday 9am–7pm, Saturday 10am–2pm).
Interpreting available.

NGT Relay **18001 0808 800 0303** (for use with smart phones, tablets, PCs and other devices). For more information see www.ngts.org.uk

hello@parkinsons.org.uk
parkinsons.org.uk

Order code: WB03

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