

# APPLYING FOR PIP

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit to help you live as independently as possible and deal with extra costs that may come with having cancer.



## Qualifying for PIP

To qualify for PIP you must be aged 16 or older – children under 16 can qualify for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) instead. The PIP you may get is based on how living with cancer affects you, rather than the illness itself. This means there's an application process to see what level of support you're entitled to.

Your PIP award won't start until you've been affected for at least three months (known as the 'qualifying period'), and this must be expected to last for at least another nine months (known as the 'prospective test'). However, you can apply for PIP before the qualifying period has ended.

You can get PIP on top of Universal Credit or other benefits, and it's tax-free. Your income, savings, and whether you're working or not don't affect your eligibility.

In Scotland, PIP has been replaced by Adult Disability Payment.

## What is PIP made up of?

There are two parts to PIP, with a standard and an enhanced rate for both components. You may get one or both of these components, based on your needs. Weekly rates (as of April 2022) are:

- **A daily living component:** enhanced rate £110.40, standard rate £73.90. You must show a need for support or help with one or more specified daily living activities such as cooking, bathing and getting dressed and undressed.
- **A mobility component:** enhanced rate £75.75, standard rate £29.20.

## How do I apply for PIP?

To apply for PIP in **England** and **Wales**, call the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm:

- Phone: **0800 121 4433**
- Textphone: **0800 121 4493** (if you can't speak or hear on the phone).

In some areas you can now apply for PIP online. Visit [gov.uk/pip](https://www.gov.uk/pip) to see if you're eligible to do this.

To apply for PIP in **Northern Ireland**, call the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Centre, Monday to Friday, 8am–4pm:

- Phone: **0800 012 1573**
- Textphone: **0800 587 0937**.

To apply for Adult Disability Payment in [Scotland](#), call Social Security Scotland, Monday to Friday, 8am–5pm:

- Phone: [0800 182 2222](tel:08001822222)
- Apply online: [mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot)

## Help with your application

If you like, you can have someone with you to help you make this call. They can speak to the DWP or PIP Centre on your behalf, as long as you give permission during the call. Have the following handy:

- Your full name and date of birth
- Daytime contact number
- National Insurance number
- Your GP, consultant, nurse specialist or social worker's details
- Your bank details so the money can be paid into your account (usually every four weeks).

After the call you'll be sent a [How your disability affects you form \(PIP2\)](#) to complete. It will have a barcode unique to you, and some parts will be completed already based on the information you provided in the call. You have one month to complete and return the form, though you can request an extension in certain circumstances.

When you send in your form, enclose any medical reports or documents that will support your claim. For example, physiotherapy assessments or a care plan from specialist nurses or social workers could help. Make copies just in case anything gets lost in the post.

## What happens after I apply?

Many people will be asked to have a face-to-face or telephone assessment with a health professional. But there are exceptions – for example if your cancer is terminal.

The assessment is your chance to explain how living with cancer affects you day to day. It will be held either at your home or another meeting point. You can have someone with you during the assessment, such as a family member, friend, partner or a professional.

The health professional will assess you on activities relevant to you, such as preparing food, getting washed and dressed, or planning and following a journey. They will score you on these activities and send a report to the DWP or PIP Centre, who use this information to help decide your entitlement to PIP, the level and length of payment. They will send you their decision in the post.

## If you disagree with a decision about your PIP

If you make a claim for PIP and you aren't happy with the outcome, you can challenge the decision – first by asking them to reconsider, and then if necessary by appealing to an independent tribunal. In each case you need to take action within one month of the date of the decision you're challenging.

The challenge process can take time, but it doesn't cost anything and there are welfare advisers and others who can support you.

## More help and information

If you're confused or worried about applying for PIP, there's lots of support out there. You could:

- Contact our welfare advice service on [0800 915 4439](tel:08009154439) or [welfare.advice@younglivesvs cancer.org.uk](mailto:welfare.advice@younglivesvs cancer.org.uk)
- Speak to a welfare adviser at your hospital, or contact your local Citizens Advice
- Visit the government's website at [gov.uk/pip](https://gov.uk/pip) for a clear and simple explanation.

Scan the QR code below for all the info on:

- Special circumstances if you're living with terminal cancer
- How health professionals will assess you for the daily living and mobility components
- Combining PIP with other benefits
- Moving from DLA to PIP.

### Contact us for support, Monday to Friday:

Phone: 0300 303 5220 (9am–5pm)

Email: [getsupport@younglivesvs cancer.org.uk](mailto:getsupport@younglivesvs cancer.org.uk) (9am–5pm)

Live chat at [younglivesvs cancer.org.uk](https://younglivesvs cancer.org.uk) (10am–4pm)



**Scan the QR code for more info on organisations that can help with PIP**

**Young Lives vs Cancer helps young people and their families find the strength to face everything cancer throws at them. We've been there before. We'll face it all, together.**