



Personal Independence Payment (PIP): a quick guide for health professions

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) has replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for new claims from **people aged 16 to 64 from 8 April 2013**. Reassessment for existing DLA claimants starts in October 2013. DLA remains for children up to the age of 16; and existing DLA recipients aged 65 or over on 8 April 2013 (the day that PIP was introduced).

What this means for health professions

The health professions play an important role in PIP, as they do in DLA.

What's different for health professions

- Claimants are only required to send in evidence they already hold, such as copies of clinic letters – they are **not** told to contact their GP or health professional to obtain further evidence
- There is **no requirement** for a statement from a GP or other health professional on the PIP claim form.
- It may be necessary to provide factual information but it will be the Assessment Providers who will contact you rather than your patient or DWP

What you might need to provide

- It may be necessary to complete a **factual report**, which will be used by the Assessment Provider to inform the PIP Assessment – they will contact you when that is necessary. It's very important to the patient that you reply within the requested time
- [Guidance on completing factual reports](#) can be found on the DWP website
- **DS1500 Report Form** – a report about a patient's medical condition to support a claim under terminal illness. Health professionals should complete a DS1500 for a potential PIP claimant who is terminally ill – [guidance on completing a DS1500](#)

When you might be contacted by phone

It may be necessary for a health professional to contact you by phone in relation to a:

- Factual Report – where requested and not returned or to clarify any points on the report
- Terminal Illness – if a DS1500 is not available or there are questions about it, it may be necessary to contact you to progress the claim quickly

Who will contact you

- In line with GMC Guidelines, contact will only be made where the patient's consent is held
- DWP will not contact any health professionals in relation to a PIP claim – instead it will be:
 - Atos Healthcare in London, Southern England, Scotland and Northern England
 - Capita Health and Wellbeing in Wales and Central England
- Map of the postcode areas Capita and Atos cover: www.dwp.gov.uk/img/pip-postcode-map.png

More information for health professions:
www.dwp.gov.uk/pip-toolkit

Claiming & PIP eligibility

PIP contributes towards the extra costs associated with a health condition or disability. It is assessed on the claimant's ability to undertake a range of activities rather than the condition they have.

People can claim and receive PIP whether they are in or out of work and it is not taxed or means tested. It can be useful in helping disabled people move into, or stay in work.

How people claim PIP

- New claims are made by phoning **0800 917 2222** (text phone 0800 917 7777)
- There are special rules for claimants who have a terminal illness. They or someone supporting them should call this number and submit a DS1500
- Claimants (other than those who are terminally ill) are then sent a form 'How your disability affects you', which they complete and return with any supporting evidence they already hold

How eligibility is assessed

Information on the form is considered by the Assessment Provider who may request further evidence from a relevant health professional or someone who supports the claimant. They may also arrange a face-to-face consultation with the claimant. DWP uses all this information to decide if PIP can be awarded, at what rate and for how long.

The PIP assessment considers the effect of a health condition or disability on daily life. This includes the individual's ability to complete the following activities:

- prepare and eat food
- manage personal care needs
- communicate and engage with other people
- make decisions
- get around

The full list of activities can be found on the [PIP assessment criteria fact sheet](#)

Evidence

The only evidence the claimant needs to request from their health professional is a DS1500 for a terminally ill patient. This is a Terminal Illness Report Form and is completed by the health professional confirming the individual's medical condition (not their prognosis) and needs to be quickly sent to DWP by the health professional or by the claimant.

Information for claimants: www.gov.uk/pip
(includes an online checker providing advice)