



The Welfare Reform Act 2012 includes provision to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people aged 16-64 with a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Personal Independence Payment has two parts:

- A daily living component which looks at your ability to carry out a number of activities related to daily living, such as cooking, dressing, bathing and engaging socially with other people; and
- A mobility component which looks at your ability to get around independently when you are not at home.
- If you are caring for a person who receives either rate of PIP daily living component, you will be eligible. There will be **no** automatic transfer of existing DLA claimants on to PIP. At some point you will be contacted by DWP and invited to claim PIP. You will have to complete the PIP claim forms and will be assessed under the PIP criteria.

Making decisions for someone who lacks mental capacity

There are two methods: Lasting Power of Attorney or Deputies, each have two parts personal welfare and property and affairs.

A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a legal document that lets you (the 'donor') appoint one or more people to help you make decisions or make decisions on your behalf.

This gives you more control over what happens to you if, for example, you have an accident or an illness and can't make decisions at the time they need to be made (you 'lack mental capacity').

You must be 18 or over and have mental capacity – the ability to make your own decisions – when you make your LPA.

Deputies: make decisions for someone who lacks capacity

You can apply to be a deputy if you're 18 or over. Deputies are usually close relatives or friends of the person who needs help making decisions.

If you want to become a property and affairs deputy, the court will check you have the skills to make financial decisions for someone else.

If you want to become a personal welfare deputy you need to get permission to apply.

The court can appoint 2 or more deputies for the same person.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

There are two categories contributory and non-contributory

If you are not able to work due to illness or disability, you may be entitled to **contributory** Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) while a full-time student if you have previously worked and paid national insurance contributions.

You will only be able to claim income-related (**non-contributory**) ESA if you are also getting Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.

If you are a full time student who is entitled to DLA, for ESA you count as having limited capability for work without having to have a Work Capability Assessment.

If you receive student support in the form of a grant or a loan, this will probably reduce the amount of income-related ESA you can get.

NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS)

If you have a low income, you may be able to get help with NHS costs through the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS). The scheme covers:

- prescription costs
- dental costs
- eye care costs
- healthcare travel costs

You can apply for the scheme as long as your savings, investments or property (not counting the place where you live) don't exceed the capital limit. In England, the limit is:

- £16,000 for everyone else

If you need help making your claim or you have questions about the LIS, call 0300 330 1343 to speak to an adviser. They can also fill in the form for you and post it to you to sign. All you need to do then is post it back in the envelope provided.

Check out the information on the websites listed below:-

www.gov.uk

http://www.turn2us.org.uk/information_resources/benefits/illness_injury_and_disability/personal_independence_payment.aspx