

FAMILY GUIDES

Attendance Allowance



**Patient
Claim
Line.com**

Understanding Attendance Allowance.

This is a scheme designed to support you with extra costs, if you have limited abilities and require the care of somebody else to meet your basic needs.



How Attendance Allowance is paid

[Attendance allowance](#) is paid at [two different rates](#). The amount of money that you may be entitled to receive depends on the level of support you require due to your disability.

Depending on the level of support you require, you could receive £61.85 or £92.40 a week to help you with personal support if you are both:

- Physically or mentally disabled
- [State pension age](#) or older

However, the support you receive on this scheme will not cover the cost of your mobility needs.

[Other benefits](#) you may receive could increase the amount of money you receive through Attendance Allowance.

It is IMPORTANT to note that you DO NOT require somebody to be caring for you in order to claim Attendance Allowance. However, if you do have a carer, they too could receive money through [Carer's Allowance](#) if you have substantial needs.

What you will receive

As mentioned above, Attendance Allowance is paid at two different rates, this is dependent on the level of support you require. The scheme is not means-tested, therefore how much you earn or having in your savings will not have an affect on money you will receive.

Rate	Level of Support You Require
Lower rate - £61.85	You require regular support throughout the day or supervision at night
Higher rate - £92.40	You require constant supervision day and night or a medical professional has informed you that you have less than 6 months to live

If your circumstances change

However, the rate you receive could change if your circumstances also change. Any changes in your circumstances should be [reported to the Attendance Allowance helpline immediately](#). Some changes that may affect the rate you receive include:

- Your condition and therefore level of support you require changes
- You would like to stop receiving your benefit
- You leave the country for more than four weeks
- You go into hospital or care home
- You go to prison

In addition to the payment, you could receive through Attendance Allowance, you may also be able to receive extra Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction. To find out if you are entitled to any of these you should contact the Attendance Allowance helpline or the office dealing with your benefit.

Attendance Allowance **eligibility**

To receive Attendance Allowance, you must meet the [eligibility criteria](#). You can receive Attendance Allowance if you are of [State Pension age](#) and meet the following:

- You are physically disabled (including sensory disability) or have a psychological disability (including learning difficulties)
- The severity of your disability means you require support in caring for yourself or somebody to be there to supervise you for your own or someone else's safety
- You have required such help for a minimum on 6 months (unless you have six months or less to live)

As well as meeting the above criteria, you must also:

- Be in Great Britain to claim Attendance Allowance (with exceptions of members and families of armed forces)
- You must be [habitually resident](#) in the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands
- You must have been in Great Britain for at least 2 of the last 3 years (this is not applicable if you are a refugee or have a humanitarian protection status)
- You must not be subject to [immigration control](#) (unless you are a sponsored immigrant)

If you currently reside in any of the following: EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein then you may still be able to receive Attendance Allowance if you are a UK national and live/move to a country within the EU, European Economic Area or Switzerland.



Important considerations



Your condition is terminal

If a medical professional has told you that you might have 6 months or less to live, you may be eligible to receive Attendance Allowance as soon further care support is required. In these difficult circumstances, you may also receive the higher rate of allowance.

If you live in a care home

If you currently reside in a care home, you are usually not eligible for Attendance Allowance, as your care is already paid for. However, if you fund all your care home costs yourself, then you will still be able to claim.

Will you need an assessment?

Some people who make a claim for Attendance Allowance may need to undergo an assessment to check your eligibility if it is unclear how your illness or disability affects you. If you require an assessment, you will be informed by letter.

Exclusions from Attendance Allowance

You may match the eligibility criteria, however you may still not be entitled to receive Attendance Allowance. You will be excluded from receiving Attendance Allowance if you currently receive:

- [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#)
- [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#)
- [Adult Disability Payment \(ADP\)](#)



How to make your claim



How to claim Attendance Allowance

To apply for Attendance Allowance, you should complete the [application form](#) and return it by post. The form includes notes which are designed to help you fill it in.

 [APPLICATION FORM](#)

You can also access alternative formats of the application form to match your needs (e.g braille, large print or audio CD) by contacting the Attendance Allowance Helpline Telephone: 0800 731 0122 / Textphone: 0800 731 0317

You may also be able to backdate your claim to the date of your claim (if you return your claim pack within 6 weeks).

If your condition is terminal and you may have 6 months or less to live, you should complete and return the application form in order to access support. You should also ask a doctor or medical professional for a DS1500 form which they will either complete and give to you to send off or they will send it directly to the Department of Work and Pensions.

If you disagree with a decision

If you disagree with a decision, you can [challenge](#) it this is also known as asking for mandatory reconsideration.

If circumstances change

If your circumstances change, you should inform someone on the Attendance allowance helpline immediately.

Information about Attendance Allowance is also available via the Government's website in [Welsh](#) (Cymraeg), [British Sign Language](#) (BSL) and [Easy Read format](#)