

# An Introduction To ESA And PIP For GPs

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# AIMS

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- To help you to support your patients through the application and appeals process for ESA and PIP
- To provide a quick guide to filling in forms effectively
- To help you guide your patients who are struggling financially

# MY ROLE

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- Medically qualified member sitting on PIP and ESA tribunals

# PIP (PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT)

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- PIP replaced the old DLA (Disability living allowance) in 2017 for people aged 16 or over
- The DfC have been gradually moving Claimants onto this benefit from that time
  - When their DLA award period finishes
  - When they turn 16
  - If you report a change in circumstances / the DfC find out there's been a change

# PIP

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- Payment for those who may need extra help because of an illness / disability / mental health condition
- No relation to income / employment / National Insurance contributions
- Must have had condition for 3 months and expect impairment to continue for at least 9 months

# PIP

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- Rates
- 2 components
  - Daily living
  - Mobility
- 2 rates
  - Standard – 8 points
  - Enhanced – 12 points

<b>Component</b>	<b>Weekly rate</b>
Daily living - standard rate	£61.85
Daily living - enhanced rate	£92.40
Mobility - standard rate	£24.45
Mobility - enhanced rate	£64.50

# ELIGIBILITY FOR PIP: DAILY LIVING COMPONENT

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- 10 areas
  - Preparing and cooking food (Up to 8 points)
    - Aids / appliances
    - Can only cook using a microwave
    - Prompting / supervision
    - Cannot cook or prepare food
  - Nutrition (Up to 10 points)
    - Aids
    - Supervision / prompting
    - Assistance to cut food
    - Therapeutic source of nutrition
    - Cannot convey food and drink to mouth and needs someone else to do it

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- Managing therapy (Up to 8 points)
    - Aid / appliance
    - Supervision / prompting
    - Assistance to manage therapy
  - Washing and bathing (Up to 8 points)
    - Aids
    - Supervision / prompting
    - Assistance to wash
  - Toilet needs (Up to 8 points)
    - Aids
    - Supervision / assistance
    - Incontinence



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- Dressing (Up to 8 points)
    - Aids / appliances
    - Prompting supervision
    - Assistance
    - Can't dress at all
  - Communicating verbally (Up to 12 points)
    - Aids / appliances
    - Support
    - Can't understand even with support

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- Reading and understanding (Up to 8 points)

- Aid
- Prompting
- Can't read at all

- Engaging (Up to 8 points)

- Prompting / social support
- Can't engage

- Budgeting (Up to 6 points)

- Needs help
- Can't budget at all

# MOBILITY COMPONENT

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- Planning and following journeys (Up to 12 points)
  - Can claimant plan a route
  - Do they need to be accompanied
  - Can they not go out at all due to distress
- Moving around (Up to 12 points)
  - Distance they can physically travel (whether aided / unaided)

# ESA (EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT ALLOWANCE)

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- ESA provides claimants with money to help with living costs if they have a disability or health condition that affects how much they are able to work
- There is also support to return to work when able
- You can apply for ESA if you're employed, self-employed or unemployed
- You can claim ESA at same time as claiming PIP but not if you are receiving Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) from your employer or if you are receiving Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- You have to be over 16 and under state pension age
- You usually need to have 2 years of National Insurance contributions or credits

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- Phases

- Assessment phase – lasts for 13 weeks while a decision on a claimants capability to work is made through a work capability assessment. ESA is paid at basic rate for that time
- Main phase
  - The Work Capability Assessment decides whether you fall into one of 2 groups
    - Work related activity group – you're expected to go for interviews to prepare you for work again. Basic rate. Award lasts for 1 year at most before you are reassessed.
    - Support group – not expected to do any work or take part in work focused interviews. A support component is paid in addition to basic rate

# RATES OF ESA PAYMENT

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- Assessment phase

Person	Weekly rate
a single person aged under 25	up to £61.05
a single person aged 25 and over	up to £77.00

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- Main phase

Group	Person	Date of claim	Weekly rate
Work related activity group	Single person	Before 3 April 2017	Up to £107.60
Work related activity group	Single person	On or after 3 April 2017	Up to £77.00
Support group	Single person	N/A	Up to £117.60

# WORK CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

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- 2 areas of functioning
  - Physical functioning
  - Mental functioning
- To qualify for work related activity group claimants must score 15 points in total
- To qualify for support group claimants must score the maximum 15 points in one area of functioning



# PHYSICAL FUNCTIONING

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- Mobilising unaided by another person with or without a walking stick, manual wheelchair or other aid if such aid is normally or could reasonably be worn or used.
- Standing and sitting.
- Reaching.
- Picking up and moving or transferring by the use of the upper body and arms.
- Manual dexterity.
- Making self understood through speaking, writing, typing, or other means which are normally or could reasonably be used, unaided by another person.
- Understanding communication by: (i) verbal means (such as hearing or lip reading) alone; (ii) non-verbal means (such as reading 16-point print or Braille) alone; or (iii) a combination of (i) and (ii), using any aid that is normally or could reasonably be used, unaided by another person.
- Navigation and maintaining safety using a guide dog or other aid if either or both are normally or could reasonably be used.
- Absence or loss of control whilst conscious leading to extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or bladder, other than enuresis (bed-wetting), despite the wearing or use of any aids or adaptations which are normally or could reasonably be worn or used.
- Consciousness during waking moments.



# MENTAL, COGNITIVE AND INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONS

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- Learning tasks
- Awareness of everyday hazards (such as boiling water or sharp objects)
- Initiating and completing personal action (which means planning, organisation, problem solving, prioritising or switching tasks)
- Coping with change
- Getting about.
- Coping with social engagement due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder.
- Appropriateness of behaviour with other people, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder.

# IF CLAIMANTS DON'T AGREE WITH THE DECISION

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- Apply for mandatory reconsideration (MR) within 3 months of decision
- If claimant disagrees with MR they need to appeal with their MR notice within one month of date shown on notice
- Appeal
  - PIP – Medically qualified member, legally qualified member, disability qualified member
  - ESA – Medically qualified member, legally qualified member

# WHERE DOES YOUR GP COME IN?

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- PIP Factual report
  - may be requested where the Assessment Provider believes that further evidence will help inform their advice to the department
- ESA / UC 113 form
  - There is a contractual obligation for any GP who has issued a Med3 (fit note) to provide medical reports, free of charge, in relation to Employment and Support Allowance on an ESA 113 or Universal Credit on a UC 113
  - You can send a computer printout of the appropriate part of the patient record, but you will still have to complete any sections of the form where the answer is not clear from the printout

# WHY IT'S USEFUL TO DO A GOOD JOB

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## FOR THE PATIENT...

- GPs evidence holds a lot of weight
- Relationship with GP
- Beneficial to wellbeing
- Saves them going through appeal process

## FOR THE GP...

- Helping your patient
- Saves potentially a lot more unfunded workload
- Saves potential consultations / referrals / prescriptions

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## Capita pays compensation to family of woman who died after benefits cut

**Exclusive:** DWP contractor settles negligence claim by family of Philippa Day, who died of overdose

**Patrick Butler** *Social policy editor*

Wed 3 Nov 2021 07:00 GMT



## PIP investigation: Woman took her own life two days after learning of failed PIP appeal

By John Pring on 16th February 2017  
Category: Benefits and Poverty

[Listen](#)

A disabled woman who lost her disability benefits because of a controversial reassessment process took her own life just two days after being told her appeal had failed.

disabilitynewsservice.com

# SOME TIPS

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- In consultations
  - Make notes about functional capacity
- Coding
  - If a condition is having a significantly adverse impact on a patient's quality of life it deserves to be coded
  - Code conditions that necessitate a sick line

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- Completing forms
    - Look at old forms
    - Summary printouts aren't that helpful – sorry!
    - Don't worry too much about the format of the form
    - Relevant clinical findings
      - Examination findings, scans, weight, BMI useful
      - BP and blood results less so
      - Dates are useful



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- Search view is a game changer
  - Treatment
    - Write about referrals as well as meds
    - Make sure you document if one weekly dispensing
  - Anything that may potentially adversely affect a claim quote directly from notes and date it

# DOCTOR'S LETTERS AND SARS

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- A well written doctor's letter does benefit a patient's claim
- SARS
  - Usually 4 years of notes is plenty

# SUPPORT WITH BENEFITS AND APPEALS

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- East Belfast Independent Advice Centre – 02890 735690 / [www.ebiac.org](http://www.ebiac.org)
- Citywide 02890 391225
- Citizens Advice Bureau – 0300 123 3233 / [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)
- Local MLA's office
- Law centre NI – 02890 244401 / [www.lawcentreni.org](http://www.lawcentreni.org)

# SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY

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- Belfast City Council
  - <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/health-and-wellbeing/poverty>
  - Pages with information about fuel and insulation grants, food banks, financial advice
- The Finance Support Service
  - <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/finance-support>
  - Benefits advances, crisis loans, grants
- Step change - 0800 138 1111 / [www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org)
- Christians Against Poverty - 0800 328 0006 / [capuk.org/i-want-help](http://capuk.org/i-want-help)

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- Housing

- NIHE – 0344 8920900 / 02895 049999 (OOH)

- Simon community – 0800 1712222

- Extern homeless support – 02890 330433

- [moneysavingexpert.com](https://moneysavingexpert.com)

- [cookingonabootstrap.com](https://cookingonabootstrap.com)