New Forest Disability Information Service

Information
01425 628750
info@NewForestDIS.org.uk
www.NewForestDIS.org.uk

Information Sheet 2

Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a non-means-tested benefit for people over state retirement age. (If you are under state retirement age and making your first application, you need Information Sheet 1 and 1a Personal Independence Payment).

The benefit is not usually affected by any other income or benefit you receive, or savings you may have.

You cannot receive Attendance Allowance at the same time as Personal Independence Payment or the care element of Disability Living Allowance. If you already receive one of these benefits, it would not usually be in your interests to change to Attendance Allowance.

Attendance Allowance is for people over State Pension age who need help with personal care. It includes the help you need, but don't get. You must have needed help for 6 months and anticipate needing it for the next 6 months. Personal care does not include things like shopping, gardening and housework.

There are 2 levels of Attendance Allowance:

1. Low Rate: if you require care during the day or night
2. High Rate: if you require care day and night. (for the purposes of Attendance Allowance the night is defined as "when the household is asleep" and does not include going to bed/getting up in the morning)

There is NO Mobility Component (help with getting around outside) with Attendance Allowance, and it does not offer access to the Motability Scheme.

Attendance Allowance is for the disabled person, not for their carer.

If you are considered to be terminally ill with a prognosis of less than 12 months, 'special rules' are applied to your claim. You will be asked to send a SR1 report from your doctor or consultant to the DWP when you apply, and you will not have to answer all the questions on the form. Your application should be fast-tracked and you should receive the high rate of AA.

Change of circumstances: If you receive the low rate Attendance Allowance, and have now needed help day AND night for at least six months, you need to ring the DWP on 0800 731 0122 to ask for a Change of Circumstances form. We can help you complete this form – ring us for an appointment.

Who can apply for Attendance Allowance?

Answer these questions to see if you might qualify:

Do you have difficulty or need help with your personal care? Such as:	
• Getting to or using the toilet or managing incontinence?	Yes/No
• Eating and drinking?	Yes/No
• Getting in or out of bed?	Yes/No
• Getting in or out of a chair?	Yes/No
• Moving around your home safely including using stairs?	Yes/No
• Shaving, washing, dressing, getting in and out of the bath or shower?	Yes/No
• Following a conversation or using the telephone?	Yes/No
• Dealing with correspondence or forms?	Yes/No
• Remembering how and when to take medication?	Yes/No
• Does somebody need to keep an eye on you for a substantial part of the day or night?	Yes/No

If you answered YES to some of the questions above, you may qualify for Attendance Allowance.

- If you would like help with an Attendance Allowance claim, please telephone our office and ask for an appointment. Our advisor will have the application form and will talk you through all the questions. It takes about an hour and a half to complete.
- If you would prefer to complete the application yourself, you will need to call the DWP on 0800 731 0122 and request a form to be posted to you. Alternatively, there are forms you can download and print at www.gov.uk.

Carer's Allowance

If you get AA and someone regularly provides care of 35 hours per week for you, and earns less than £204 per week net, they may be able to apply for Carer's Allowance. Please note, carers over state pension age will only be paid Carer's Allowance if their state pension basic rate is less than £86.45 weekly.

IMPORTANT: Your benefits may be affected if someone claims Carer's Allowance for providing care for you. Attendance Allowance can qualify you for an extra amount to be added to any Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction you receive, but you may not be able to receive this extra amount if someone is paid Carer's Allowance to care for you.

New Forest Disability Information Service is a registered charity, and we rely on your kind donations to provide our services. If you would like to make a donation, please visit www.NewForestDIS.org.uk/donate. Thank you.