

## Changing circumstances and your benefits

### When hospital or care home stays can affect benefits

When circumstances change because of a stay in hospital or a care home any benefits you, or the person you are caring for receive, may be affected. You **must** tell whoever pays the benefits and they will advise on any payment changes to be made.

Benefits helplines are listed on page 6.

### Going into hospital – effect on benefits

#### **Attendance Allowance (AA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP).**

The following does not apply to a child under 18 years on admission to hospital.

Benefits stop after 28 days in hospital. Payment restarts from the day you leave hospital. If you leave hospital temporarily and expect to return within 28 days, you can be paid for each day out of hospital.

If you are readmitted to hospital, having been at home for 28 days or less, the number of days during each hospital stay are added together and payment stops after a total of 28 days.

Days in hospital are counted from the day after admission to the day before discharge.

Stays in hospital and a care home are linked if the gap between them is no more than 28 days. Benefits stop being paid after a total of 28 days in hospital or a care home, or both if you've moved from one to the other with a gap of 28 days or less in between.

If you have a Motability agreement in force when you go into hospital and payment of the mobility component stops, Motability should not seek to recover the vehicle for up to 28 days.

If you make a first time claim when you are already in hospital, it cannot be paid until you are discharged from hospital.

#### **Carer's Allowance (CA)**

If you go into hospital, your CA will stop after 12 weeks. It may stop sooner if you have been in hospital or had a break from caring within the previous 26 weeks. A week is counted from Sunday to Saturday.

If the person you are caring for goes into hospital, your CA will stop when their Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance care component or Personal Independence Payment daily living component stops.



### **Child Benefit (CB) / Guardian's Allowance (GA)**

CB/GA is paid for the first 12 weeks if the child goes into hospital. After 12 weeks, you can continue to get CB/GA but only if you are regularly spending money on the child's behalf.

If you continue to get CB/GA you will continue to get any child dependant's addition that may still be payable with other benefits (such as Carer's Allowance), otherwise this will also end.

If you or your partner is in hospital CB/GA normally continues to be paid.

**Child Tax Credit** - not affected by admission to hospital.

### **Council Tax Support**

Check with your local council. See page 6 for contact details.

### **Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

If a child is under 18 years on admission to hospital payments will continue to be made for the duration of the hospital stay.

### **Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)**

Contributory ESA will continue to be paid whilst in hospital.

Income-related ESA can continue to be paid whilst in hospital but may be affected if DLA or PIP payments stop.

Once you leave hospital contact JobCentre Plus to reinstate the correct benefit entitlement. Proof of hospital stay will be required.

After a 52 week hospital stay only the basic rate of ESA will be paid.

### **Housing Benefit**

This is paid for up to 52 weeks as long as the other conditions of entitlement are met.

If the tenancy is due to end whilst in hospital contact your local council. See page 6 for contact details.

### **Income Support**

This is paid for an indefinite period as long as the other conditions of entitlement are met. Certain premiums and costs are affected:

- Your severe disability premium will stop after 4 weeks in hospital and the loss of AA, DLA care component or PIP daily living component. If you have a partner who qualifies for the severe disability premium, he or she will continue to receive it at the single rate.
- Your carer premium will stop 8 weeks after your Carer's Allowance stops.
- Once you have been in hospital for a continuous period of 52 weeks all premiums will stop unless you have a partner who satisfies the conditions for the premium themselves.



If you have no dependants living in your home, you can no longer receive Income Support housing costs. If you have dependants or other people living in your home, their right to benefit depends on their own circumstances. If you are one of a couple and have been in hospital for 52 weeks, you and your partner are treated as separate claimants.

### **Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)**

If you are already receiving JSA when you go into hospital, you can be treated as being capable of, available for, and actively seeking work for up to 13 weeks.

When your JSA stops, you may be able to claim Employment and Support Allowance instead.

### **Pension Credit**

This is paid for an indefinite period as long as the other conditions of entitlement are met.

Certain premiums and costs are affected:

- Your severe disability addition will stop after 4 weeks in hospital and the loss of AA, DLA care component or PIP daily living component. If you have a partner who qualifies for the severe disability premium, he or she will continue to receive it at the single rate.
- Your carer addition will stop 8 weeks after your Carer's Allowance stops.
- Once you have been in hospital for a continuous period of 52 weeks all premiums will stop unless you have a partner who satisfies the conditions for the premium themselves. If you have no dependants living in your home, you can no longer receive Pension Credit housing costs. If you have dependants or other people living in your home, their right to benefit depends on their own circumstances. If you are one of a couple and have been in hospital for 52 weeks, you and your partner are treated as separate claimants.

**State Pension** - not affected by admission to hospital.

**Statutory Sick Pay** - not affected by admission to hospital.

### **Universal Credit**

If you go into hospital, your Universal Credit is not affected but can be reduced if your partner goes into hospital for more than 6 months. You will then need to claim as a single person.

If one of your children or a qualifying young person goes into hospital, your award will be reduced if they go into hospital for more than 6 months.

If the person you are caring for goes into hospital, the carer element will no longer be included in your Universal Credit award once you no longer meet the entitlement conditions to Carer's Allowance.



### **Working Tax Credit**

Working Tax Credits can usually be paid for the first 28 weeks of sickness or if you cease to be treated as employed and no longer qualify for Working Tax Credit.

Inform HM Revenue & Customs of such a change of circumstances to avoid unnecessary underpayment or overpayment.

### **Staying in a care home – effect on benefits**

#### **Attendance Allowance (AA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

All these benefits are paid for a minimum of 4 weeks after moving into a care home.

If your local council is helping with your care home fees you will only receive AA, DLA or PIP for up to 28 days - if you were already entitled to the benefit before moving into a care home.

It may stop sooner if you have been in a care home, or hospital, within the previous 28 days. In this case, the different periods are added together and treated as one stay, and your benefit will stop after 28 days. A stay in a care home is counted from the day after you enter to the day before you leave.

If you are self-funding (not receiving financial help from your local council) or a retrospective self-funder, AA, DLA or PIP will continue indefinitely - as long as you remain self-funding.

DLA and PIP mobility components are not affected by stays in a care home.

#### **Carer's Allowance (CA)**

If you receive CA your benefit will stop if you or the person you are looking after, move permanently into a care home.

If someone else gets CA for looking after you, their benefit will stop if you move permanently into a care home.

#### **Council Tax Reduction/Support**

If no-one else remains in a property when someone moves into a care home, it is important to inform the local authority's Council Tax Reduction/Support department as council tax may not have to be paid. When someone is staying temporarily in a care home, Council Tax support may be paid for up to 52 weeks. You will need to contact your local council. See page 6 for contact details.

#### **Housing Benefit**

If someone is in a care home for a temporary stay or for respite care, it may be possible to get housing benefit for up to 52 weeks.



### **Housing Benefit continued**

If you go into a care home for a trial period with a view to a permanent admission housing benefit may be paid for up to 13 weeks. If the care home does not meet needs and further trial periods in other homes are needed, this benefit can be paid up to a maximum continuous period of 52 weeks or 6 months if you are receiving Universal Credit.

### **Income Support, Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA, Universal Credit**

It may be possible to continue to receive these benefits whether you move into a care home temporarily or on a permanent basis provided you are under pension credit qualifying age.

Once a member of a couple is in permanent care, then each will need to claim benefits as a single person.

### **Pension Credit**

Pension credit will continue to be paid for up to 52 weeks if a stay in a care home is seen as temporary. Once a member of a couple is in permanent care, then each will need to claim benefits as a single person.

### **State Pension**

Moving into a care home will not affect State Pension but it will be counted as income when care home costs are calculated. When your pension is used to contribute towards the cost of care, you must be left with a personal expenses allowance, currently £24.90 per week.

### **Benefits contact details:**

Attendance Allowance	Tel: 0800 731 0122; Textphone: 0800 731 0317
Carer's Allowance	Tel: 0800 731 0297; Textphone: 0800 731 0317
Child Benefit	Tel: 0300 200 3100; Textphone: 0300 200 3103
Disability Living Allowance	Tel: 0800 121 4600; Textphone: 0800 121 4523
Jobcentre Plus (New Claims)	Tel: 0800 055 6688; Textphone: 0800 023 4888
Jobcentre Plus (Existing Claims)	Tel: 0800 169 0310; Textphone: 0800 169 0314
Pension Credit Claim Line	Tel: 0800 991 234; Textphone: 0800 169 0133
Pension Service	Tel: 0800 731 0469; Textphone: 0800 169 0133
Personal Independence Payment	Tel: 0800 121 4433; Textphone: 0800 121 4493
Tax Credits Helpline	Tel: 0345 300 3900; Textphone: 0345 300 3909
Universal Credit	Tel: 0800 328 9344; Textphone: 0800 328 1344



### **Local council contact details:**

Bradford Metropolitan District Council	01274 432722
Craven District Council	01756 700600
Harrogate Borough Council	01423 500600

### **Further information:**

**Age UK Adviceline: 0800 678 1174; [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)**

*Paying for permanent residential care (Factsheet 10)*

*Paying for temporary care in a care home (Factsheet 58)*

Factsheets available online at: [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk); Tel: 0800 678 1184

**Carers Direct (NHS Choices): 0300 123 1053; [www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/)**

**Carers' Resource** – contact details below

**Carers UK: Helpline: 0808 808 7777; [www.carersuk.org](http://www.carersuk.org)**

**Citizens Advice: 03444 111 444; [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)**

**Government website: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)**

#### **Important note:**

This factsheet contains general information which we hope will be useful to you. Please do not rely on the information as the basis for any financial decisions.

You must contact the relevant benefits provider as soon as circumstances change for specific guidance relating to your situation.

Under provisions of the Care Act 2014, there is a duty on local authorities to signpost people to independent financial advice.

Carers' Resource does not accept any liability arising from use of this information.



If you need further information or would like to discuss any aspect of your caring role, please contact Carers' Resource:

**Harrogate 01423 500555**

11 North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5PD

**Bradford 01274 449660**

15 Park View Court, St Paul's Road, Shipley, BD18 3DZ

**Ripon 01765 690222**

Community House, Sharow View, Allhallowgate, Ripon, HG4 1LE

**Skipton 01756 700888**

Ronaldsway House, 36 Brook Street, Skipton, BD23 1PP

**info@carersresource.org**

**www.carersresource.org**

We can provide this information in another format. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

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