



ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE (AA)



Attendance Allowance is paid to people aged 65 or over, who need help with personal care. There is no separate element for mobility, although ability to move around your home can count towards 'care'.

QUALIFYING RULES

You need to show that at least one of the following applies to you (A-B are daytime needs, C-D are night-time needs):

A. You need help with bodily functions frequently throughout the day

'Bodily functions' means things like seeing, hearing, moving about (for example climbing stairs or getting up from a chair, or getting in and out of bed), washing, bathing, dressing, undressing, eating, drinking, toileting, medication etc.

'Help' can be either physical help, or it can be spoken help, for example prompting, reminding, encouraging, or describing things to someone who is blind, or interpreting for someone who is deaf.

B. You need continual supervision throughout the day, in order to avoid the risk of substantial danger to yourself or others.

The danger has to be one which could occur at any time. It could be, for example, from falling, self harm, epileptic attacks, blackouts, aggression, dangerous behaviour, an inability to react to danger (e.g. someone who is paralysed), lack of awareness of danger etc.

C. You need help in the night in connection with bodily functions.

The help has to be either 'prolonged' i.e. lasting at least 20 minutes (count the time the carer would need to be out of bed), or 'repeated' i.e. more than once.

D. You need someone to be awake during the night, to watch over you in order to avoid substantial danger to yourself or to others.

This could apply for example if you have epilepsy or hypoglycaemic attacks and someone has to wake up in the night to check on you. It could also apply if you wander round the home at night and cannot safely be left to do this unsupervised.

This watching over must be either 'prolonged' i.e. for at least 20 minutes (it is the amount of time the carer would need to be awake that counts), or 'at frequent intervals' i.e. repeated throughout the night.

Rates

A or B or C or D	Lower rate Attendance Allowance £47.10pw / £188.40 four-weekly
(A or B) plus (C or D)	Higher rate Attendance Allowance £70.35pw / £281.40 four-weekly

GENERAL NOTES

1. The above criteria must have existed for at least 6 months.
2. If you are under age 65 you need to claim Disability Living Allowance instead of Attendance Allowance.
3. Attendance Allowance does not count as income for any means-tested benefit, but often triggers off extra in Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.
4. Some people will be receiving Disability Living Allowance when they reach 65 [and it may include the Mobility Component]. Once 65 is reached, Disability Living Allowance remains in payment – there is no transfer to ‘Attendance Allowance’.
5. **If you are already on Attendance Allowance you should think very carefully before asking for your Attendance Allowance to be looked at again - your award could be reduced instead of increased – see the WWRAS leaflet ‘A Risky Business’ (Pb29) for further advice.**

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2009

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