



# **DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)** **FOR PEOPLE 16+**



DLA is made up of two parts, or components - the Care component and the Mobility component. The two components can be claimed separately or together.

## **CARE COMPONENT: QUALIFYING RULES**

You need to show that at least one of the following applies to you (A-D are daytime needs, E-F 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), 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 with bodily functions in the day, but only for about 1 hour in total rather than throughout the day.**

**D. You need help to prepare a cooked main meal for yourself.**

This could apply, for example, to someone with learning disability, or who is blind, or who has a physical condition, such as arthritis, or who has a mental illness and/or disability which means s/he gets confused, forgetful or depressed etc.

**E. 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.

**F. 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.

## Care Component Rates

C or D	Lowest rate care component	£18.65
A or B or E or F	Middle rate care component	£47.10
( A or B ) plus ( E or F )	Highest rate care component	£70.35

### MOBILITY COMPONENT: QUALIFYING RULES

#### Higher rate

- A)** You have a physical disability which means you are
- unable to walk, **or**
  - virtually unable to walk (this could apply if your ability to walk is extremely limited because of pain or breathlessness or fatigue, or because your walking is very slow, or awkward etc), **or**
  - both deaf and blind, **or**
  - without feet
- OR**
- B)** You are severely mentally impaired, **and**
- have severe behavioural problems, **and**
  - qualify for the highest rate of the care component

#### Lower rate

For the lower rate you have to show that, although you are physically able to walk, you have a physical or mental disablement which means you cannot walk out of doors in unfamiliar areas without guidance or supervision. This could apply, for example, if you are blind or deaf, have learning difficulties, epilepsy, a mental health condition, or for some other reason you would be unable to walk in unfamiliar areas on your own.

### GENERAL NOTES

1. For both components, the above criteria must have both existed for at least 3 months and be likely to continue for at least a further 6 months ( but see 2. below ). However, this does not apply to terminally ill claimants.
2. DLA must be claimed before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you are approaching your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, you should make a claim even if you have not yet had the care/walking difficulties for 3 months.
3. **If you are already on DLA you should think very carefully before asking for your DLA 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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