

## Factsheet B7: Benefits for older people

### Attendance Allowance

This is a benefit for anyone over the age of 65 who needs help with their personal care or needs supervision because of physical or mental disability. How much money you get depends on the level of help you need.

To show that help is needed for personal care you would have to show that someone needs help with essential daily tasks for example getting in or out of bed, having a wash, getting dressed, using the toilet and getting in and out of chairs and generally moving around the house. Otherwise you would need to show that someone was not safe to leave at home without supervision. You would have to show there was a real risk of harm to that person, or to other people, if they did not have this supervision. This could apply during the day or night but you would have to show that you needed help frequently throughout the day (not just for a small part of the day), and/or during the night.

Attendance Allowance does not have any provision to help financially with getting out and about – it only has a care component and does not have a mobility component.

Attendance Allowance is very similar to the rules for the care component of Disability Living Allowance (which has now been replaced by Personal Independence Payment), although it does not have the equivalent of the low rate of care, and it does not have the mobility component at all. If Disability Living Allowance was awarded before the age of 65 and you still meet the rules, then it can continue in payment and you do not have to transfer to



Attendance Allowance. This means you can continue to receive help for getting out and about (mobility) and for help with personal care for about an hour a day (low rate care) under the rules for Disability Living Allowance, as long as you were entitled before you became 65.

Attendance Allowance is not means-tested, so it does not matter if you have other income, and it is tax free. Payments will be suspended if you go in to hospital or a care home for over 28 days. If you are awarded Attendance Allowance, you can get extra money added to Pension Credit and Housing Benefit, and have a reduction to your Council Tax.

The Attendance Allowance helpline is 0800 731 0122 or you can download a claim form at [www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance/how-to-claim)

Things which are not taken into account for Attendance Allowance are whether you are able to do all of your housework, gardening or shopping. If these are problems, you would need to ask for a **Care Assessment from Social Services** by calling 0344 800 8020. They can also advise you on how to apply for adaptations to your home, for example if you need a ramp because you cannot manage to use a step into your house.

### **Carer's Allowance**

This is payable to the person who is a carer, as long as the person they care for gets Attendance Allowance (or at least mid-rate care Disability Living Allowance, or any daily living rate of Personal Independence Payment). The carer does not have to be related to or live with the person who is cared for. A carer has to be at least 16 to get Carer's Allowance, and they need to show that they spend at least 35 hours a week in the caring role and don't already earn more than £120 a week.



Carer's Allowance is taxable and can affect other benefits. It will not be awarded to anyone who also receives State Retirement Pension, although if you receive Pension Credit (see below) you may get an additional Carer Premium.

You can claim online (or download a paper form) at [www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim) or phone the Carer's Allowance Unit at 0800 731 0297.

### **Pension Credit**

This is payable to anyone over State Pension Age whose income and savings are low. You would need to pass a means-test, which means you need to show that your income and savings is below the level that the government thinks you need to live on.

If you are a couple, you can claim Pension Credit for both of you as long as one of you has reached State Pension age. This varies for men and women. From 15 May 2019 couples will only be able to claim once the younger partner has reached State Pension age. You can check whether you are eligible at [www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator) and claim at [www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim) or call the Pension Service on 0800 99 1234.

For anyone who reached State Pension Age before 6 April 2016 there is an additional payment called Savings Credit that could be made to people who have modest savings.

If you require further information or would like this factsheet in an alternative format you can contact us by calling: 01508 491210, by emailing:



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