

#### Personal Independence Payments

- Introduced April 2013.
- Applies for adults aged 16 64.
- > PIP is a non means tested benefit.
- You have to be habitually resident in the UK.
- Symptomatic for at least 3 months prior to claim and expected to remain symptomatic for the next 9 months.
- Replaces DLA for new applicants
- People on DLA transferred beginning Oct 2015
- Estimated 600,000 fewer people claiming PIP after transfer from DLA.

## The Application Process

- Initial telephone consultation (Part 1)
- PIP Assessment form sent to claimant, needs to be returned in 1 month. (Part 2)
- Face to Face assessments by healthcare professional from a private company.
- All information sent to decision maker.
- People are awarded standard or enhanced Care and Mobility payments.
- Decisions can be appealed, but this has to be done within a month.

#### Rates of PIP

#### Daily Living Tasks

- Standard Rate = £55.10 pw
- ► Enhanced Rate = £82.30 pw

#### Mobility

- Standard Rate = £21.80 pw
- Enhanced Rate = £57.45 pw

#### Part 2 - Questionnaire

- Applicants need to complete a 35 page questionnaire and return within 1 month.
- Multiple questions relating to daily living tasks, mobility and how their disability affects them.
- Important to provide supporting medical evidence. ( More letters required!!!)
- Support with the form may be required, specialist advisors can help.

#### Paper Questionnaire

- Assessment broken down into Daily Living and Mobility Activities.
- Daily Living Activities (10)
  - Preparing Food; Taking Nutrition; Managing Therapy or Monitoring a Health Condition; Washing and Bathing; Managing Toilet Needs or Incontinence; Dressing and Undressing; Communicating Verbally; Reading and Understanding Signs Symbols and Words; Engaging with People Face to Face and Making Budgeting Decisions.

#### Mobility Activities (2)

Planning and Following Journeys and Moving Around.

## **Fluctuating Conditions**

- Health conditions can vary from day to day, improve and deteriorate depending on situations.
- Fluctuating conditions can be difficult to assess.
- DWP suggest to complete assessment which reflect people's ability for the majority of days >50% of the time
- If their situations change, it's the individual's duty to inform DWP.



## Supporting letters/Statements

- How frequently do you get requests for supporting letters?
  - 1) More than once a week
  - 2) Once a week
  - 3) More than once a month
  - 4) Less than once a month

## **Tips for Writing Supporting Letters**

- Stick to the facts
- Only comment on what you know
- If you feel unable to write a letter, let the client know this, rather than avoiding the issue/giving false hope
- Encourage people to get supporting letters from other professionals in their care.
- NHIVNA/NAT writing guide on website



## What is a DS1500?

- A) Capability to work questionnaire
- B) Certification of Sickness/ Fit note
- C) Certification of terminal illness
- D) UK Entry to Eurovision 2016

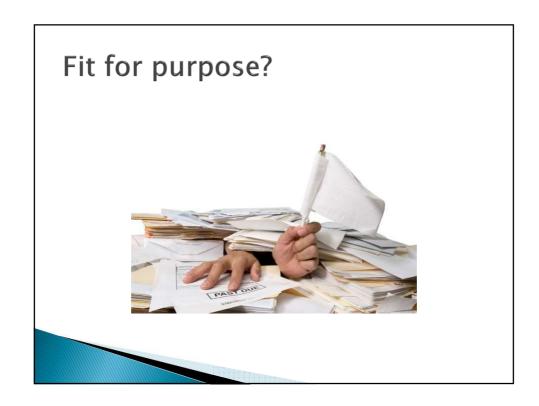
## **Special Rules**

- Applicants with a terminal illness can apply for PIP under "Special Rules" with a DS1500 being signed by a doctor or healthcare professional
- Applicants are not expected to live longer than 6 months
- Applicants under special rules do not need to complete Part 2 of the application or the face to face assessment.



# When did you last hear of a DS1500 being completed in your team?

- A) In the last 12 months
- B) In the last 5 years
- C) In the last 10 years
- D) Never heard of one being completed



### PIP Process in Reality.

- Recent High Court ruling identified "the delay in paying Welfare Benefits to two disabled people was unlawful"
- Currently over 78,000 waiting for a decision regarding their claim for PIP.
- ▶ 3200 have waited more than a year for their claim to be processed.
- 22,800 have waited more than 20 weeks.
- DWP state that the minimum accepted processing time is 2 months, but this is likely to increase due to missed appointments and complexity.

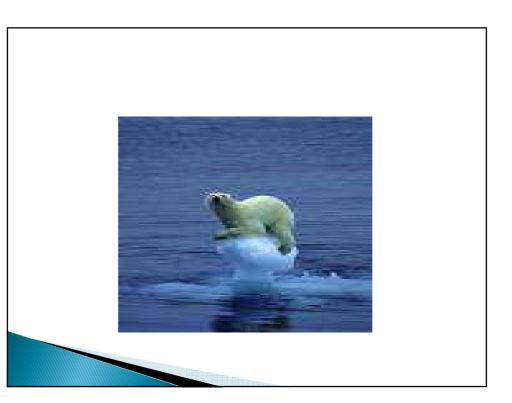
#### **DWP** Response

- Employed 700 new staff to cope with the backlog
- "The average PIP claimant now only waits 7 weeks for an assessment" -Justin Tomlinson MP.
- If PIP is awarded, the claim is backdated to the point of initial application.



## **Funding**

- Over £2 Billion Public Health Funding is now the responsibility of Local Authorities in England.
- This money is for all public health, therefore it is up to LA to set their priorities.
- HIV Support Services are not a mandated service, therefore not legally obliged to commission support services beyond support for a new HIV diagnosis.
- If this continues people requiring advice and support may be signposted to generic services, despite research showing that "PLWHIV were less likely to secure advice from non HIV support networks due to disclosure concerns".. CPA 2014



## Response from the sector

- NAT are undertaking a project assessing the impact of support services across England.
- PUK as a member of National Voices aims to demonstrate the value of Peer Support.
- The Improving Well Being project and Joint Homerton Hospital Peer Navigator project have been cited as examples of good practice.
- Some decisions to stop funding services have been challenged by voluntary sector and clinical networks, including Birmingham and Ealing.
- As contracts come up for retendering, we will have to wait and see what services are going to be tendered for
- Could care be broken down to a postcode lottery?



#### **Conclusions**

- New PIP assessments can take time to be resolved
- People currently receiving DLA will be reassessed, causing concern and anxiety.
- Be realistic, there's no point giving people false hope.
- When writing supporting letters, stick to the facts.
- Encourage people to get support from all involved in their care!
- Unite and fight, we need to protect services
- Peer Support should be seen as a necessity, not a luxury.

## Acknowledgments

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