



## PIP: Great Expectations? >>

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## 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.

## Question



## 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

## Question



## 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.

## Question



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

Fit for purpose?





## 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?



USE  
IT  
OR  
LOSE  
IT!

## 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.

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Thank You!

