

## 12. Special Rules for Terminally Ill People

**This fact sheet covers details of the Special Rules under which someone can claim PIP if they are terminally ill and not expected to live for more than six months**

Special Rules allow people who are terminally ill to get help quickly.

Claims for those who are found to meet the Special Rules for terminally ill people criteria will be dealt with much more quickly than normal claims.

Claimants who meet the criteria for claiming under the Special Rules for terminally ill people:

- will not have to complete the ['How your disability affects you' form](#);
- will not need a face-to-face consultation; and
- are guaranteed an award of the enhanced rate of the daily living component of PIP without having to wait until they satisfy the qualifying period or prospective test.

Both the daily living component, and providing the conditions are met, the mobility component will be paid straight away.

### How to Claim

The way to claim under the Special Rules for terminally ill people is by telephone on:

**0800 917 2222**

If someone is claiming under the Special Rules, the phone call can be made by someone supporting the claimant (such as a support organisation or family member) without the claimant needing to be present. However, the claimant should be told about the claim because DWP may need to contact them to verify their details and DWP will send notifications and any payment to them.

The claimant will not be sent the form 'How your disability affects you' if they meet the criteria for an award under Special Rules; instead they, or the person claiming on their behalf, will be asked some extra questions whilst they are on the phone about their condition and how it affects their ability to get around.

## **DS1500 report**

Claimants are encouraged to get a DS1500 medical report from their doctor to support the claim.

The DS1500 is a report about their medical condition, not their prognosis, and the claimant can obtain one from their doctor, nurse, Macmillan nurse or social worker. The claimant will not have to pay for a DS1500.

The DS1500 report can be sent to DWP either by the doctor or by the person requesting it but it is important that it is sent in quickly to support the PIP claim. The claimant (or the person making the claim on their behalf) will be given a freepost address for the DS1500 when they make the claim over the phone.

## **Assessment Process**

Claimants who are deemed to qualify under the Special Rules for terminally ill people will not need a face-to-face consultation. The health professional will be able to complete the assessment without the need for a face-to-face consultation, using the information provided during the claims process and any further evidence gathered.

## **PIP and existing DLA Special Rules claimants**

Those claimants who are already in receipt of DLA under Special Rules will only be invited to claim PIP when their DLA award expires. This includes children reaching age 16 who would otherwise have to claim PIP.

If an existing DLA claimant contacts DWP after 7 October 2013 to say that their condition has deteriorated and they are now terminally ill, they will be invited to claim PIP. Details about existing DLA claimants can be found in [fact sheet 6](#).

More detailed information about Personal Independence Payment: [www.dwp.gov.uk/pip](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/pip)