

Benefits in hospital

Factsheet 21
December 2008



What happens if you are in hospital?

IF YOU NEED FURTHER ADVICE ABOUT BENEFITS WHEN YOU OR A CLOSE RELATIVE HAVE TO GO INTO HOSPITAL RING THE BENEFITS HELPLINE

If you have to go into hospital, or similar institution, as an inpatient the benefits you get can be affected.

Not all benefits are affected in the same way, some are stopped after a few weeks and others can continue to be paid for more than a year. There are some benefits that stay in payment whether you are in hospital or not; providing you continue to meet the other conditions that allow payment of the benefit. These are:

- Bereavement Allowance;
- Employment and Support Allowance;
- Incapacity Benefit;
- Maternity Allowance;

- Retirement Pension;
- Severe Disablement Allowance;
- Statutory Adoption Pay;
- Statutory Maternity Pay;
- Statutory Paternity Pay;
- Statutory Sick Pay; and
- Widowed Parent's Allowance.

For disability living allowance and attendance allowance both the day you are admitted and the day you are discharged count as days out of hospital.

For all other benefits the day you are admitted is treated as a day out of hospital and the day you are discharged is treated as a day in hospital.



David gets Incapacity Benefit and expects to be admitted to hospital for a 3 week stay.

His current benefits will not be affected.

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If you are a private patient paying the full-cost of your accommodation and non-medical services in hospital, you are not considered an inpatient and will continue to receive the benefits you are entitled to.

How are your benefits affected?

How your benefits are treated depends on whether the money you get is means-tested or not.

The list on the following pages contains all the

benefits in alphabetical order, check each benefit you get to see how it will be affected by a spell as a hospital inpatient. This will give you an idea of how much money you will

have to live on when you are receiving care.

If you have any doubts or questions contact the **BENEFITS HELPLINE** for further advice and information.



How are your benefits affected?

A stay in hospital will affect benefit in the following ways:

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE stops after you have been in hospital for 4 weeks.

If you claim Attendance Allowance when you are already in hospital, it cannot be paid until you leave.

IF YOU ENTER HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT AT FREQUENT INTERVALS CONTACT THE BENEFITS HELPLINE FOR ADVICE

CARER'S ALLOWANCE will stop if the person you are caring for has been in hospital and their Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance care component has stopped.

If you go into hospital your Carers' Allowance will stop after 12 weeks.

CHILD BENEFIT will continue to be paid for the first 12 weeks if your child or a child you care for goes into hospital.

After 12 weeks you can continue to get these benefits for a child in hospital only if you are regularly spending money on the child's behalf, for example on clothing; pocket money; or magazines.

If you continue to get Child Benefit you will continue to get any child dependant's addition that may still be payable with other benefits (such as Incapacity Benefit), otherwise this will also end.

If you or your partner are in hospital, Child Benefit normally continues to be paid.

CHILD TAX CREDIT is not affected by a stay in hospital, but if you are claiming Working Tax Credit and you cease to be treated as employed because of a stay in hospital you would no longer qualify for Working Tax Credit, which may affect the level of your award.

It is a good idea to tell HM Revenue & Customs of your change of circumstances due to a stay in hospital to avoid unnecessary underpayment or overpayment.

CONTACT THE BENEFITS HELPLINE FOR FURTHER ADVICE OR INFORMATION



COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT, (also see housing benefit), is paid for an indefinite period as long as you continue to meet the other conditions of entitlement are met. However, certain premiums and costs are affected:

If your Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance (care component) stops after 4 weeks in hospital, the severe disability premium allowed in the calculation of Council Tax Benefit will also stop.

If you have a partner who is not in hospital and who also qualifies for the severe disability premium, he or she will continue to get it.

If you are a carer and your Carer's Allowance stops your carer premium allowed in the Council Tax Benefit calculation will stop after 8 weeks.

Once you have been in hospital for a continuous period of 52 weeks, if you have no dependants living in your home, you can no longer receive Council Tax Benefit. If you have dependants or other people living in your home, their right to benefit depends on their own circumstances.

If you are one of a couple and have been in hospital for 52 weeks, you and your partner are treated as separate claimants.



Baby Kieron has to be admitted to hospital for specialist treatment.

His mother will continue to get Disability Living Allowance for up to 12 weeks of his hospital stay. She will also continue to receive Child Benefit.

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE

FOR ADULTS stops after you have been in hospital for 4 weeks.

If you have a Motability agreement in force when you go into hospital, Disability Living Allowance mobility component continues to be paid to Motability for the full term of the agreement. Any balance that would otherwise be paid to you stops after 28 days.

You cannot begin or renew a Motability agreement



provided the new agreement is entered into the day after the old one ends. Note that the mobility component will be paid if you renew a Motability agreement during a temporary absence from hospital.

If you claim Disability Living Allowance when you are already in hospital, it cannot be paid until you leave.

FOR CHILDREN stops after you're the child you are responsible for has been in hospital for 12 weeks.

As with adults, if there is a Motability agreement in force, the mobility component continues to be paid to Motability for the full term of the agreement.

IF YOU ENTER HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT AT FREQUENT INTERVALS CONTACT THE BENEFITS HELPLINE FOR ADVICE

GUARDIAN'S ALLOWANCE is paid for the first 12 weeks if your child or a child you care for goes into hospital.

After 12 weeks you can continue to get these benefits for a child in hospital only if you are regularly spending money on the child's behalf, for example on clothing; pocket money; or magazines.

HOUSING BENEFIT, (see also council tax benefit), is paid for an indefinite period as long as the other conditions of entitlement are met. However, certain premiums and costs are affected:

If your Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance (care component) stops after 4 weeks in hospital, the severe disability premium allowed in the calculation of Housing Benefit will also stop. If you are a carer and your Carer's Allowance stops your carer premium allowed in the Council Tax Benefit calculation will stop after 8 weeks.

If you have a partner who is not in hospital and who also qualifies for the severe disability premium, he or she will continue to get it.

Once you have been in hospital for a continuous period of 52 weeks, if you have no dependants living in your home, you can no longer receive Housing Benefit. If you have dependants or other



people living in your home, their right to benefit depends on their own circumstances. If you are one of a couple and have been in hospital for 52 weeks, you and your partner are treated as separate claimants.

INCAPACITY BENEFIT will continue to be paid as long as you continue to satisfy the other conditions of entitlement.

INCOME SUPPORT is paid for an indefinite period as long as the other conditions of entitlement are met. However, certain premiums and costs are affected:

If your Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance (care component) stops after 4 weeks in hospital, the severe disability premium allowed in the calculation of Income Support will also stop.

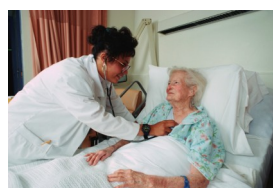
If you are a carer and your carer's allowance stops, your carer premium will stop after 8 weeks.

After 52 weeks you will lose the disability, enhanced disability premium unless you have a partner who satisfies the conditions for the premiums themselves. If you have a partner who is not in hospital and who also qualifies for the severe disability premium, he or she will continue to get it.

If you have been in hospital for a continuous period of 52 weeks, and have no dependants living in your home, you can no longer receive Income Support housing costs. If you have dependants or other people living in your home, their right to benefit depends on their own circumstances.

If you are one of a couple and have been in hospital for 52 weeks, you and your partner are treated as separate claimants.

Income Support can continue to be paid during a temporary absence abroad for the purpose of receiving NHS hospital treatment.



Mary was admitted to hospital 5 weeks ago and her Attendance Allowance and Severe Disability Addition to Pension Credit stopped after 4 weeks.

Her husband Jack is still at home he continues to get both Attendance Allowance and the Severe Disability Addition to his Pension Credit because he meets the relevant conditions.



How are your benefits affected?

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES BENEFITS: Constant Attendance Allowance stops after 4 weeks. Other benefits are not affected.

JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE: you cannot normally claim Jobseeker's Allowance while you are in hospital because you will not be deemed capable of work or able to satisfy the labour market conditions.

However, if you are already receiving Jobseeker's Allowance when you go into hospital, you can be treated as being capable of, available for, and actively seeking work for up to 2 weeks. You can do this twice within any 12 months of the same job seeking period.

You may also be able to claim Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support instead.

Jobseeker's Allowance can continue to be paid during a temporary absence abroad for the purpose of receiving NHS hospital treatment.

MOTABILITY: If you have a Motability agreement in force when you go into hospital, Disability Living Allowance mobility component continues to be paid to Motability for the full term of the agreement. Any balance that would otherwise be paid to you stops after 28 days.

You cannot begin or renew a Motability agreement while you are in hospital unless the renewal agreement is under the Motability wheelchair scheme provided the new agreement is entered into the day after the old one ends.

You can renew an agreement during a temporary absence from hospital.

PENSION CREDIT is paid for an indefinite period as long as the other conditions of entitlement are met. However, certain additions are affected:

If your Attendance Allowance stops after 4 weeks in hospital, the severe disability addition allowed in the calculation of Pension Credit will also stop.

If you are a carer and your carer's allowance stops, your carer addition will stop after 8 weeks.

CONTACT THE BENEFITS HELPLINE FOR ADVICE



David has been in hospital for 16 weeks he still gets Pension Credit, Housing and Council Tax Benefits.

After 52 weeks you will not be entitled to Pension Credit and have no dependants living in your home, you can no longer receive Pension Credit housing costs. If you have dependants or other people living in your home, their right to benefit depends on their own circumstances.

If you are one of a couple and have been in hospital for 52 weeks, you and your partner are treated as separate claimants.

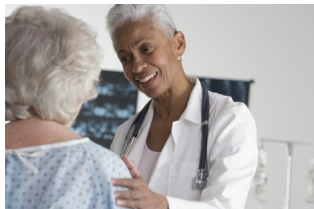
WAR PENSIONS may be increased when you go into hospital, if the treatment is for the war injury.

Constant Attendance Allowance and War Pensioners' Severe Disablement Occupational Allowance stop after 4 weeks.

WORKING TAX CREDIT is not automatically affected by a stay in hospital.

However, if you cease to be treated as employed because of a stay in hospital you would no longer qualify for WTC, and if your other income changes this may affect the level of your award.

Inform HM Revenue & Customs of your change of circumstances to avoid underpayments or overpayments.



Joan has been in hospital for three weeks. She expects to stay for at least 5 more weeks. In another week her Attendance Allowance and the Severe Disability

Addition to her Pension Credit will stop.

She will still get the single person Minimum Pension Credit and her Council Tax will continue to be paid.

When she leaves hospital her previous benefits should be re-instated

