

## PIP – Personal Independence Payment

### PIP Descriptors

#### PIP has two parts; Daily living and Mobility Components

You may qualify for one or both parts of Personal Independence Payment. The award is based on how a health condition or disability affects “everyday activities” and for each part of the two parts of Personal Independence Payment there is a list of activities and descriptors.

Daily Living Activities include:

1. Preparing Food
2. Nutrition and Hydration
3. Managing your therapy and treatments
4. Washing and bathing
5. Managing your toilet needs
6. Dressing and undressing
7. Communicating
8. Reading
9. Engaging with other people
10. Making decisions about money.

Mobility activities include:

11. Going out, and about
12. Moving around.

For each activity, there's a list of 'descriptors'. Descriptors are sentences which describe how much support, and the type of support, needed to do the activity.

Each descriptor has a point score. In order to qualify for PIP you will have to score a certain number of points in relation to the relevant activities/descriptors.

8 points – Standard rate

12 points– Enhanced rate

You are entitled to the daily living component at the standard rate if;

1 (a) the person's ability to carry out daily living activities is limited by the person's physical or mental condition; and

1 (b) the person meets the required period condition.

You are entitled to the daily living component at the enhanced rate if—

2 (a) the person's ability to carry out daily living activities is severely limited by the person's physical or mental condition

## **RELIABLY**

For a descriptor to apply you must be able to reliably complete the activity as described in the descriptor. 'Reliably' means whether they can do so:

- Safely –the activity must be unlikely to cause harm to you or to another person.
- To a necessary and appropriate standard – given the nature of the activity.
- Repeatedly – as often as is reasonably required.
- In a timely manner – in a reasonable time period.

If you have a fluctuating condition the most appropriate descriptor will be the one which is likely to apply for the greatest proportion of that time.

**'Assistance'** means physical help from another person with completing some part of an activity. It does not include giving verbal instructions, which counts as 'prompting'.

**'Supervision'** means the continuous presence of another person throughout the activity to ensure your safety. The risk does not need to be caused by one of the activities; it is enough that you need continuous supervision to carry out the activity reliably

**'Prompting'** means that another person needs to remind or encourage you to carry out an activity, or explain how to do it. The definition does not say that the person prompting you must be in your presence, so prompting by telephone can arguably allow you to score points in the assessment, if it is needed for you to carry out an activity.

**Aids and appliances** . You may score points for most of the daily living activities if you do not need help from another person, but can only manage the activity using an 'aid or appliance'

## **DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES/TASKS**

### **1. Preparing food.**

- a. Can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal. 2 points.
- c. Cannot cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but is able to do so using a microwave. 2 points
- d. Needs prompting to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal. 2 points.
- e. Needs supervision or assistance to either prepare or cook a simple meal. 4 points.
- f. Cannot prepare and cook food. 8 points.

### **2. Taking nutrition.**

- a. Can take nutrition unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs;
  - (i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to take nutrition; or
  - (ii) supervision to be able to take nutrition; or
  - (iii) assistance to be able to cut up food. 2 points.
- c. Needs a therapeutic source to be able to take nutrition. 2 points.
- d. Needs prompting to be able to take nutrition. 4 points.
- e. Needs assistance to be able to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition. 6 points.
- f. Cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so. 10 points.

### **3. Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition.**

- a) Either;
  - (i) does not receive medication or therapy or need to monitor a health condition; or
  - (ii) can manage medication or therapy or monitor a health condition unaided. 0 Point
  
- b) Needs one or more of the following;
  - (i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage medication;
  - (ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage medication or monitor a health condition. 1 Point
  
- c) Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes no more than 3.5 hours a week. 2 points.
  
- d) Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 3.5 but no more than 7 hours a week. 4 points.
  
- e) Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 7 but no more than 14 hours a week. 6 points.
  
- f) Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours a week. 8 points.

**4. Washing and bathing.**

- a. Can wash and bathe unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to wash or bathe. 2 points
- c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to wash or bathe. 2 points.
- d. Needs assistance to be able to wash either their hair or body below the waist. 2 points.
- e. Needs assistance to be able to get in or out of a bath or shower. 3 points.
- f. Needs assistance to be able to wash their body between the shoulders and waist. 4 points.
- g. Cannot wash and bathe at all and needs another person to wash their entire body. 8 points.

**5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence.**

- a. Can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence. 2 points
- c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs. 2 points.
- d. Needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs. 4 points.
- e. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel. 6 points.
- f. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel. 8 points.

**6. Dressing and undressing.**

- a. Can dress and undress unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to dress or undress. 2 points
- c. Needs either
  - (i) prompting to be able to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed; or
  - (ii) prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing. 2 points.
- d. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their lower body. 2 points.
- e. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their upper body. 4 points.
- f. Cannot dress or undress at all. 8 points.

**7. Communicating verbally.**

- a. Can express and understand verbal information unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to speak or hear. 2 points.
- c. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand complex verbal information. 4 points.
- d. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand basic verbal information. 8 points.
- e. Cannot express or understand verbal information at all even with communication support. 12 points.

**8. Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words.**

- a. Can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using spectacles or contact lenses. 0 points.
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance, other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to read or understand either basic or complex written information. 2 points.
- c. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand complex written information. 2 points.
- d. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand basic written information. 4 points.
- e. Cannot read or understand signs, symbols or words at all. 8 points.

**9. Engaging with other people face to face.**

- a. Can engage with other people unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs prompting to be able to engage with other people. 2 points.
- c. Needs social support to be able to engage with other people. 4 points.
- d. Cannot engage with other people due to such engagement causing either –
  - (i) overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant; or
  - (ii) the claimant to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to the claimant or another person. 8 points.

**10. Making budgeting decisions.**

- a. Can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make complex budgeting decisions. 2 points.
- c. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make simple budgeting decisions. 4 points.
- d. Cannot make any budgeting decisions at all. 6 points.

## PIP - Mobility Descriptors

### MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

#### 11. Planning and following journeys.

- a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided. 0 points.
- b. Needs prompting to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant. 4 points.
- c. Cannot plan the route of a journey. 8 points.
- d. Cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid. 10 points.
- e. Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant. 10 points.
- f. Cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid. 12 points.

#### 12. Moving around.

- a. Can stand and then move more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided. 0 points.
- b. Can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided. 4 points.
- c. Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres. 8 points.
- d. Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres. 10 points.
- e. Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres, either aided or unaided. 12 points.
- f. Cannot, either aided or unaided
  - (i) stand; or
  - (ii) move more than 1 metre. 12 points

If you would like some help with an application or appeal please [book a 10 minute appointment](#) to see how we can help.

NOTES