



Attendance Allowance

FACTSHEET

You may be entitled to up to an extra £114.60 per week

Attendance Allowance is a **non means tested** benefit for people over state pension age needing additional support looking after themselves due to disability or long-term illness.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify, an applicant must satisfy all of the following

- ✓ Be within the state pension age.
- ✓ Need support looking after yourself due to disability or long term illness. These can be physical or mental disabilities.
- ✓ Not subject to immigration control.
- ✓ Have had the illness or disability for at least 6 months prior. Terminal illness diagnosis follows 'special rules' fast track individuals to get help quickly. They are not subject to the 6 month rule. See page 3 for more information.

How Much Is Attendance Allowance? 2026/2027

£76.70 per week for anyone needing help either day or night

£114.60 per week for anyone needing helping both day and night.



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Daytime Disability

- Support you may reasonably need with personal care like breathing, eating, drinking, getting in and out of bed, toileting, washing, dressing, walking, communicating, taking medication or carrying out hobbies. Seeing and hearing is also included if support is required.
- You need someone to check on you throughout the day to ensure you are safe or ensure you are not a potential harm to yourself or others.

Nighttime Disability

- Need help with personal care during the night or at least once for a period of 20 minutes.
- Need someone watch over you for a for a period of 20 minutes or shorter more frequent periods to ensure you are safe and to avoid risk of harm to yourself or others, example going to the toilet, getting in and out of or moving in bed, avoiding wandering or risk of falling.

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Examples Of Needing Additional Support

- Eating/ drinking
- Toileting, washing
- Dressing/undressing
- Seeing & hearing is included if support is required, e.g. reading your post for you.
- Communicating
- Carrying out hobbies,
- Taking medication.
- At risk of falls or stumbling
- Walking indoors or outdoors
- Getting in/out of a chair/bed/bath

Terminal Illness

People with a terminal illness can apply under 'special rules' to allow them to get the help they need faster. Terminal illness is for anyone who has less than 12 months to live and has a progressive illness.

To apply under special rules, ask your GP for a free SR1 form detailing your diagnosis and treatment and include it with your application.

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How to Make An Application for Attendance Allowance

England and Wales

- Call the Attendance Allowance Helpline 0800 731 0122 to ask for a date stamped claim form to be sent. If you return this form within 6 weeks of the date, and your claim is successful, it will be paid from the date you made the telephone call.

Download A Claim Form

- [Attendance Allowance: How to claim - GOV.UK](#)
If you download a form or use a form provided from an agency like Age UK, the claim will start from the date it is received by the Disability and Carers Service.



Scan to download the attendance allowance claim form and guidance notes.

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Filling The Form

- Describe how the disability impacts your everyday life.
- Describe your needs with everyday activities needing additional support.

Getting Help Filling the Form

A medical examination is not normally necessary. The form can be lengthy to complete and applicants can get help completing it from the following ways:

- A friend or relative who knows about your needs and challenges.
- An independent advice agency like Age UK, or Caremark.
- An Appointee or Attorney
- The Attendance Allowance helpline who can help fill the form over the phone or in some circumstances arrange for a home visit to help complete the form. 0800 731 0122.

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It is not mandatory you send any specific medical documents with your application, but it can help with your claim. Helpful information would include:

- Letters from your GP and other medical professionals.
- Medical appointment letters.
- Prescription lists.
- Other medical reports.
- Care plan from your social care provider if you have one.

You My Be Asked For Further Information

Before making a decision, the decision maker at DWP can request further information.

They may contact a named person on your form or request a short report from a medical professional named on your application.

They may also need to assess you in your home or have a conversation with you.

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Receiving The Decision

You will receive the decision in writing outlining the rates of Attendance Allowance you will receive and for how long. It can be for a fixed period or indefinite.

If it is for a fixed period, a new claim for will be sent to you before your fixed period ends.

Challenging the Decision

If you disagree with the decision that has been made, either you believe you should be on a different rate of Attendance Allowance or you are altogether refused Attendance Allowance, you can ask the DWP for a '*mandatory reconsideration*'.

Following the mandatory reconsideration you are still not satisfied with the outcome, you are eligible to appeal with The Tribunal Services, there is a time limit on how long you have to appeal, normally 4 weeks.

Further Reading

It is recommended you read the full Attendance Allowance Guide on the Government's website before completing the form. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance>