



MESOTHELIOMA UK

Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

Attendance Allowance Factsheet

August 2019

I have mesothelioma. Can I claim Attendance Allowance? Yes, you can claim Attendance Allowance if you:

- have reached state pension age
- you are not claiming Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.

The amount of benefit

The Higher Rate of Attendance Allowance should be awarded automatically. A carer can claim on behalf of the mesothelioma patient without the patient's knowledge.

How to claim

The first step is to ring the Attendance Allowance Helpline on **0800 731 0122 (option 1)**

Your claim will be registered on the day of the telephone call and the form will be sent to your family member or support organisation.

It needs to be returned within six weeks.

You should be able to claim under the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) "Special Rules". If so, a DS1500 form will be completed by your GP, specialist nurse or hospital consultant. This form should be sent off with the Attendance Allowance claim form, and you will only need to complete the sections referring to the Special Rules.

Will my savings, income or earnings affect my claim for Attendance Allowance?

- Attendance Allowance can be paid on top of any amount of savings, income or earnings.
- It is non-taxable so is not required to be declared to the Inland Revenue.

Will Attendance Allowance affect my Pension Credit or Housing Benefit?

- Attendance Allowance will not affect your payments of Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit.
- You may even be entitled to more of these benefits and you should therefore contact The Pension Service Helpline on **0800 7310469 (option 4)** and your local Council Benefits and Revenues Sections.

Benefit rates

Benefit rates are reviewed each year, normally in April. Information regarding current rates can be found at **www.gov.uk** or contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser (see below).

If you go into hospital

Payment of Attendance Allowance stops after you have been in hospital for 28 days. Payment starts again from the day that you leave hospital. If you first claim Attendance Allowance when you are already in hospital, you cannot be paid until you leave.

If you are a private patient and meeting the whole cost of accommodation and non-medical services in hospital, Attendance Allowance can still be paid.

Scotland

If you live in Scotland, the provision of disability benefits is going to change. For details please contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser (see below) or search **www.gov.scot**

Further help

For help to check benefit entitlement, assistance with form filling or to discuss any problems with benefit/compensation applications please contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser on **0800 169 2409** or email **info@mesothelioma.uk.com** Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group or your local Citizens Advice office.