



# MESOTHELIOMA UK

Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

## Statutory Sick Pay Factsheet

June 2017

**Are you now unable to work because of mesothelioma?  
Are you still employed by your company or organisation but absent through  
sickness?**

Then you will be entitled to Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) if:

- You are classed as an employee and work under a contract of employment
- You have been ill for at least 4 days in a row (including non-working days)
- You earn at least the lower earnings limit. This changes in April each year. Go to [www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay/eligibility) or contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser for details (see below)
- You have notified your employer of your absence by following their sickness absence procedure – or within 7 days if they do not have one.

### What you get

SSP is a weekly rate which usually changes each year, normally in April. To check the rate go to [www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay/what-youll-get](http://www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay/what-youll-get) or contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser for details (see below). SSP is paid for up to 28 weeks. You get SSP for the days you would normally have worked. It's not paid for the first 3 days you are off work, unless you have been paid SSP within the last 8 weeks and are eligible for it again. SSP is paid by your employer in the same way as your normal wages eg weekly or monthly. Tax and National Insurance will be deducted. You cannot get less than the statutory amount. You can get more sick pay if your employer offers a sick pay scheme, so check your employment contract.

### How to claim

SSP is paid and administered by your employer **not** the Department for Work and Pensions. You need to follow your employer's sickness absence reporting procedure. You will need to provide your employer with a "fit note" (sick note) if you are off sick for more than 7 days in a row (including non-working days).

### **What happens when SSP ends?**

If you are still sick at the start of the 23<sup>rd</sup> week of your period of entitlement to SSP and likely to remain sick beyond the 28<sup>th</sup> week, you will need to claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). For details see the ESA Factsheet. Your employer must complete and send you form SSP1. On the form, your employer must state why SSP is ending and the last day it will be paid. You will need this form to support your claim for ESA but if your employer delays issuing it, you should register your claim for ESA so you do not lose benefit.

### **What if your job ends?**

If your job ends before you have had 28 weeks' SSP from your last employer and you are still incapable of work through illness, you can claim ESA. You will need to send form SSP1 (see above) to support your claim.

### **Can you have any savings?**

SSP can be paid on top of any amount of savings.

### **SSP and other benefits**

SSP can be paid on top of:

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit  
Disability Living Allowance  
Attendance Allowance  
Personal Independence Payments  
Constant Attendance Allowance

If you are in receipt of tax credits, housing benefit, council tax reduction or any means tested benefits, SSP is classed as income so you should inform the appropriate Departments that you are now in receipt of SSP.

### **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@mesotheliom.uk.com](mailto:info@mesotheliom.uk.com) Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group or your local Citizens Advice office.