



Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit

May 2010

Are you caring for a person who has Mesothelioma?

You may be able to get **Carer's Allowance or Carers Credits**

Carers Allowance can be claimed if:

- You are caring for a person who receives
DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE at the middle and higher rate care component
ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE
CONSTANT ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE at one of the 3 highest rates
and
- You are caring for at least 35 hours per week

How much can you earn?

You can earn up to £100 net per week after reasonable expenses such as travel and special equipment.

Can I have any Savings?

The Benefits Office/DWP does not take into account any amount of savings.

Should you still claim Carer's Allowance if you are receiving a State Retirement Pension?

Yes, because it may entitle you to extra Pension Credit, Housing and Council Tax Benefit. Although Carer's Allowance cannot be paid on top of Retirement Pension, it is still important to claim both. This is because if you complete the form for Carer's Allowance, you will be registering as having made the claim.

What should you do when you receive Carer's Allowance? OR

What you should do if you have been registered for the Allowance but cannot receive it because you are in receipt of a State Retirement Pension?

Contact the DWP and ask about claiming Pension Credit or extra Pension Credit.
Contact the Local Council and ask about claiming or getting Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

Can it be paid on top of any other Benefits?

Yes! It can be paid on top of the following Benefits

- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Component)
- Disability Living Allowance (Care Component)
- Attendance Allowance

The Amount of Benefit

It is paid at **£53.90 per week**

How to claim

You will need to complete form DS700 which you can request from the Carer's Allowance Unit, Palatine House, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 1NS or telephone 0845 6084321.

Important Note: When the Carer receives this Allowance it may cause the Income Support/Pension Credit/income related Employment and Support Allowance of the person with a disability to be lost or reduced.

What to do if you are unhappy with the Decision?

Please refer to the Appeals Factsheet.

You need to act within a month of the date on the letter containing the decision.

Carers Credit – new from April 2010

If you cannot get Carers Allowance, from 6th April 2010 carers will be able to build up qualifying years through new weekly carers credits for the basic State Pension, the additional state pension, and bereavement benefits. As a carer you will qualify for this credit if you are caring for a total of 20 hours or more each week for someone in receipt of:

- Disability Living Allowance (middle or high rate care component), or
- Attendance Allowance or Constant Attendance Allowance at any rate, or
- Someone certified as needing this care by a Health or Social Care Professional.

For help to check exactly which benefits you are able to claim, help to fill in the necessary forms or to discuss any problems you have with your benefits call:

Macmillan Benefits Helpline on freephone 0808 808 0000
Mon – Fri 9am – 8pm

Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group, your local Citizens' Advice Bureau or a local specialist nurse for advice and assistance.