



Pension Credits Factsheet

April 2010

Pension Credit is a means tested benefit for people over 60. Between 6 April 2010 and 5 April 2020, the age from which you may receive Pension Credit will change. It will gradually rise in line with the increase in State Pension Age for women which is changing from 60 to 65

For further details, and the exact date on which you can claim your State Pension and Pension Credit, please speak to a benefits adviser or go to www.pensions.direct.gov.uk

You may be able to receive one or both of the **Pension Credits**

- **The Guarantee Pension Credit**

- **The Savings Credit**

This is for people age 65 and over and who have saved. You do not need to have been on Income Support or the Guarantee Pension Credit.

Are you age 60 or more?

You may be able to get the **Guarantee Pension Credit**

If you are

- Age 60 or more (your partner can claim below age 60, but it is important that the person age 60 claims since the rules will be more generous)
- Your weekly income is below a certain level. You will need to ask for advice regarding assessment of your income (see contact details below).

Are you age 65 or more?

You may be able to get the **Savings Credit**

- You or your partner are age 65 or more

AND

- You have savings

The amount of money that you will receive will depend upon your individual and family circumstances. You will need to ask for advice (see contact details below).

How to claim

All claim forms can be requested on the telephone from your local Jobcentre Plus Office - ask for the Pension Credit Section.

NB: The claim form will be registered on the day of the telephone call that could mean extra benefit than if you obtain forms from an Advice Centre or the Post Office.

Will Savings, Income and Earnings affect payment of Pension Credit?

Pension Credits are means tested and so some savings, some income and earnings will affect payment.

- The first £10,000 of any savings is ignored

- Officially there is no savings limit above, which stops you from claiming Pension Credit as there is with Income Support, however,
- You will be deemed to have £1.00 per week income for every £500 above £10,000. For example if you have £12,000 in savings your Pension Credit entitlement will be reduced by £4.00 per week.
- There is no limit on the number of hours you can work but net earnings of more than £20.00 per week will affect your payment of Pension Credit £1.00 for £1.00 - that is earnings after reasonable expenses.

Which Benefits reduce payment of Pension Credits?

Pension Credits are means tested and therefore the following list of Benefits will reduce payment:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Retirement Pension
- Contribution Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Bereavement Benefits
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Working Tax Credit

Which Benefits do not reduce Payment of Pension Credits

- Disability Living Allowance (Care component)
- Disability Living Allowance (Mobility component)
- Attendance Allowance

Even though Pension Credits are means tested the following Benefits will not reduce your Pension Credits. In addition to being paid on top of Pension Credits they may also even increase their payment. See below for more details.

When you receive one of the following:

- **Disability Living Allowance (Care component)**
- **Attendance Allowance**

You should automatically receive the highest of one of the above allowances after the relevant form has been completed.

If you did not qualify for Guarantee Pension Credit before receipt of one of the above allowances you may now qualify so you should do the following:

- Contact your local Jobcentre Plus Office immediately and ask for the Pension Credit Section. Tell them that you are getting Disability Living Allowance if you are under age 65 or Attendance Allowance if you are age 65 or over
- Ask about the Severe Disability Addition

Is your wife, husband or partner getting Carer's Allowance to assist in caring for you?

You may now be entitled to Guarantee Pension Credit or extra Guarantee Pension Credit if you are already receiving it. If you are getting this Allowance you should do the following:

- Contact your local Jobcentre Plus Office and ask for the Pension Credit Section. Tell them that you are now getting the Carer's Allowance and ask about Carer addition.

Beware

Carer's Allowance and Guarantee Pension Credit

Please note very carefully that if you are caring for someone who **resides in another house** from yourself and who does not live with another adult, you may affect the amount of Guarantee Pension Credit that they will receive if you as the carer claim Carer's Allowance.

Claiming Arrears

If you are late claiming, you will be able to get your Guarantee or Savings Pension Credit backdated for 3 months after you have claimed.

What to do if you disagree with the decision on your Pension Credit

If the DWP has

- Refused all payment of the Pension Credits
- Given you a payment that you think is not correct. You can request that the decision is looked at again by the DWP or appeal to a Tribunal.

You must do either of the above within one month of the date of letter containing the decision. Please seek assistance with writing the Appeal.

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.