

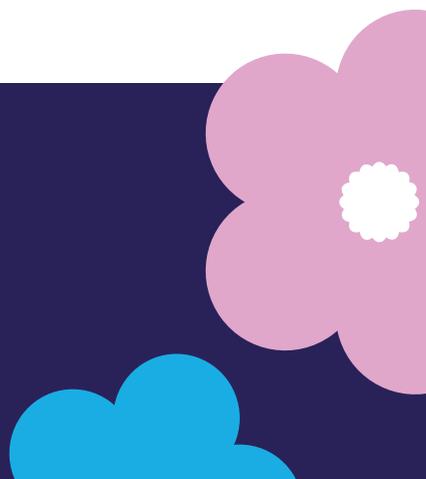
Employment and Support Allowance



MESOTHELIOMA UK

www.mesothelioma.uk.com

0800 169 2409



Employment and Support Allowance

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is a benefit paid to people whose ability to work is limited either by ill health or disability. To qualify you must be under state pension age and no longer have any entitlement to Statutory Sick Pay. Before the introduction of Universal Credit, ESA had two elements: contributory ESA and income-related ESA. Under the universal credit system, ESA has just one element, corresponding to contributory ESA: “new style” ESA. This benefit is linked to your national insurance contribution record. To be entitled, you must have paid national insurance contributions over a certain number of years. “New Style” ESA is not affected by savings or

most other income, except for occupational or personal pensions. You can continue to receive personal independence payments and industrial injuries disablement benefit. However “New Style” ESA is taxable.

Special Rules

With a diagnosis of a terminal illness, such as mesothelioma, your claim can be dealt with under Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) “special rules” and your “new style” ESA claim will be fast tracked. You should provide the DWP with a DS1500 form, available from your specialist nurse, hospital consultant or GP. With a claim for “new style” ESA under special rules you do not have to serve the 13-week

assessment phase before being placed in the “support group”. This means that you will receive an additional payment on top of the basic allowance. In addition, under special rules, your claim can continue beyond 12 months.

Can I claim ESA if I am self employed?

If you are self employed, below state retirement age and are unable to work due to your Mesothelioma then you can claim ESA as long as you have paid the correct level of National Insurance contributions. If you have not paid the relevant contributions then you may qualify for Universal Credit depending upon your household income

and savings.

Benefit rates

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

How to claim

You can start your claim for “new style” by calling **0800 328 5644** (option 2 then option 6) (Northern Ireland **0800 085 6318**). You should state that you wish to claim “new style” ESA under “special rules” and that you have a DS1500 form. You will be sent a UCESA1 claim form. Under “special rules” you can be seen at home by a home visiting officer

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rather than having to visit a job centre. You will need to provide proof of identity, medical “fit” notes from your GP and the DS1500 form.

Further help

The information regarding “new style” ESA has been summarised for the purposes of this Factsheet as the rules surrounding this benefit can be complex. 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.



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