

Disability Living Allowance

Personal Independence Payment



Little Hearts Matter

Supporting every step of the half a heart journey

DLA

You can apply from 3 months old until the age of 15.

Hospital teams may apply for you under special rule from birth

PIP

You can apply for PIP from the age of 16.

If you already receive DLA a letter will be sent to you to re apply for PIP as you are approaching 16.

DLA

You can apply here –
Downloadable form.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1122683/dla1-child-interactive.pdf

Just type DLA application form into
your search.

Or ring

0800 121 4600 for a hard copy form

PIP

Complete the form you have been sent by the
DWP.

Or

Start the application process by contacting the
Department of Work and Pensions
here - **0800 917 2222**

You'll need to give the following information:

- your contact details, for example telephone number
- your date of birth
- your National Insurance number, if you have one (you can find this on letters about tax, pensions and benefits)
- your bank or building society account number and sort code
- your doctor or health worker's name, address and telephone number
- dates and addresses for any time you've spent in a care home or hospital
- dates for any time you spent abroad for more than 4 weeks at a time, and the countries you visited

DLA and PIP are not awarded because of a medical condition. They are awarded because of the care and mobility needs of the individual.



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DLA

Care Award

lowest rate - help for some of the day.

middle rate - frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis

highest rate - help or supervision throughout both day and night, or a medical professional has said they might have 6 months or less to live

Mobility

lowest rate - they can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors

highest rate - they cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind or severely sight impaired.

PIP

Care

You get the standard rate if you score **between eight and 11 points** for your daily living needs in the PIP test. **Change coming.**

You get the enhanced rate if you score 12 points or more. You automatically qualify for the enhanced rate of the daily living component if you are terminally ill.

Mobility

If you get **between 8 and 11 points** in total, you'll get the mobility component of PIP at the standard rate.

If you get at least 12 points in total, you'll get the mobility component at the enhanced rate. This allows access to motorbility.

DLA

PIP

Both Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment benefits offer Care and Mobility awards.

Care component	Weekly rate
Lowest	£24.45
Middle	£61.85
Highest	£92.40

Mobility component	Weekly rate
Lower	£24.45
Higher	£64.50

Lower weekly rate	Higher weekly rate	
Daily living part	£61.85	
Mobility part	£24.45	

Always honestly set out the Care and/or Mobility needs of the person who needs the benefit but think about their worse day not their best.



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Care component –

The DWP are looking for you to describe the care that you or your child needs that is over and above the care that anyone of the same age would need. For DLA this is set out on the application form. For PIP it is the form and very often a health professional assessment (this may be on the phone or face to face).

The diagnosis that you or your child has is not the deciding factor although it does highlight what extra care may be needed.

Do not assume that the assessors understand the needs associated with a heart condition. You need to explain things in detail.

To help you understand the day to day care required keep a diary for a week. The DWP does not want to see the diary but it will help you to answer the questions on the application.

You need to provide independent evidence, especially when you apply for PIP, that proves what you are saying in your application - HCP's, EHCP's, letters from the hospital, letters about provisions that have been made at work. Letters from professional carers are useful but letters from other family members are often disregarded.

DLA

Mobility –

You are not able to apply for the mobility allowance for children until they are three. If you receive care allowance the DWP will send you the form to claim mobility.

Be aware that most children do not receive the allowance until they are five because healthy children often need support getting from a to b when they are under five. All children with a single ventricle heart should get some level of mobility after the age of five.

There are some exceptions - if a health professional applies because of a specific care need. For example the child needs an oxygen tank. If your child has extra medical care needs ask your cardiac team if they will support an early mobility claim.

PIP

Mobility –

All adults with a single ventricle heart should get some level of mobility allowance.

As well as setting out the mobility needs on the application form you also need to demonstrate the need at the medical assessment. They will watch you walk.

Do not attempt all of the form in one go.
Read all the questions, collect the
information you need and then do a little
at a time.

Be kind to yourself, it is tough talking
about the worse day.



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What evidence should I send with my application?



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What are the assessors looking for?

- The assessor does not know you or your child, explain and if necessary repeat information.
- Without the allowance the claimant will not reach their full potential.
- Unable to access school, education or the workplace.
- Maximise their independence.
- Include any educational challenges, ADHD, Autism.
- Explain the lack of energy that having half a heart creates and how it is limited every day. Mention the spoon theory.
- Explain that you or they can walk but if they use their energy walking to school or work there would be no energy to make the most of the working day.
- Life limiting/ non correctable condition.
- Include issues about mental health, anxiety, depression.
- Talk about inclusion, what are they unable to do with their friends.

Always keep a copy of any
application form.
You may have to appeal or reapply.



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Appeals.

In two stages.

- **Mandatory reconsideration** – ask the DWP to reconsider their decision by revisiting your original documentation. When asking for the consideration it is important to set out, against the points highlighted in the refusal letter, all the reasons you think the decision was wrong.
- **Appeal – The evidence is reviewed by an independent panel.** To complete the full appeal you need to submit as much independent information as you can to show the DWP that you can evidence yours or your child's needs. Medical reports or letters, HCP's, EHCP's. The panel will review the information but they will also offer a face to face appeal meeting (sometimes online sometimes in person).

Top Tips

- Always save yourself a copy of your form when you send it in.
- Do it on a computer, if at all possible, as you can then save your application and will just have to update it in future.
- Ask for help e.g., from LHM, your health visitor, a local charity, Citizens Advice, etc.
- Be prepared for it to take a long time to complete the form – it can take days or even weeks, but it is worth it.
- Keep repeating information if it is relevant to the question – don't worry about having already made the same point earlier in the form.
- Think of the worst days and nights, not the best.
- Be emotionally geared up to do this job – it can be draining.
- Keep a pad of paper to hand so you can jot down ideas of things which take extra time when they happen.
- Get supporting letters from people such as LHM, health visitor, nursery, school, cardiac specialist nurse, community nurse.
- Include supporting documentation from organisations such as LHM and Heartline.
- Make the most of the 'Extra Information' page at the end of the form and paint a full picture of your child, their difficulties and how it impacts on the family.
- Remember that the person who reads your form is not a healthcare professional – they may not even have heard of yours or your child's diagnosis before, so tell them everything about how the condition impacts on everyday life.
- First-time you complete the form you may find it helpful to ask for input from other people (friends, grandparents, nursery) about how your or your child's needs differ from their peers.

Don't give up!

<https://www.lhm.org.uk/dla/>



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