

Going into hospital

jobcentreplus

Part of the Department for Work and Pensions



This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of April 2010.

It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate overtime, for example because of changes to the law.

Contents

The effect that going into hospital has on the following benefits

Attendance Allowance	4
Bereavement benefits	5
Carer's Allowance	6
Constant Attendance Allowance	7
Disability Living Allowance	8
Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance	10
Income Support	11
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	12
Jobseeker's Allowance	13
Pension Credit	14
State Pension	16
Other help you can get	17
Help with housing costs	17
Help with hospital travel costs	18

Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

Attendance Allowance

What happens to my Attendance Allowance if I go into hospital?

Attendance Allowance will usually stop after you have been in hospital for 28 days, unless you are a private patient paying for your accommodation and treatment without help from the NHS.

If you go into or come out of hospital, you must tell the Disability and Carers Service straight away.

If you or your carer get Carer's Allowance, this may also stop (see page 6).

If your Attendance Allowance stops, you or your partner may also stop getting extra money in other benefits, like:

- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit, or
- Council Tax Benefit.

How do I find out more?

Benefit enquiries (disabled people and carers).

Phone: 0800 882 200

Textphone: 0800 243 355

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm,
Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Bereavement benefits

What happens if I or my children go into hospital?

Tell the office that pays your benefit.

Your bereavement benefits will not be affected.

How do I find out more?

Jobcentre Plus

To contact Jobcentre Plus, visit www.direct.gov.uk or see the entry in your phone book.

Carer's Allowance

What happens if I or the person I am caring for go into hospital?

If you get Carer's Allowance, that money may stop as soon as you go into hospital.

Your Carer's Allowance may stop as soon as the disabled person you are caring for goes into hospital.

If you get extra money with your Carer's Allowance for someone who looks after your children, the extra money may stop straight away if that person goes into hospital.

However, in some cases you can carry on getting Carer's Allowance for up to 12 weeks.

If you go into or come out of hospital, you must tell the Disability and Carers Service straight away.

If your Carer's Allowance stops, you or your partner may also stop getting extra money in other benefits, like:

- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support allowance
- Housing Benefit, or
- Council Tax Benefit.

How do I find out more?

Benefit enquiries (disabled people and carers).

Phone: 0800 882 200

Textphone: 0800 243 355

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm,
Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Constant Attendance Allowance

If you need care every day because you have a disability, and you claim Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit or a War Disablement Pension, you can claim Constant Attendance Allowance.

If you or your partner get Constant Attendance Allowance, it will usually stop after you or they have been in hospital for four weeks.

How do I find out more?

For Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

To contact Jobcentre Plus, visit www.direct.gov.uk or see the entry in your phone book.

For War Disablement Pensions

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Phone: 0800 169 2277

Textphone: 0800 169 3458

Monday to Thursday 8.15am to 5.15pm,
Friday 8.15am to 4.30pm.

Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

Disability Living Allowance

What happens to my Disability Living Allowance if I go into hospital?

Both the care and mobility parts of Disability Living Allowance will usually stop after you have been in hospital for 28 days, unless you are a private patient paying for your accommodation and treatment without help from the NHS.

If some or all of your Disability Living Allowance is paid into the Motability scheme, you may carry on getting this mobility part until the Motability agreement ends.

If you go into or come out of hospital, you must tell the Disability and Carers Service straight away.

If you or your carer get Carer's Allowance, this may also stop (see page 6)

If your Disability Living Allowance stops, you or your partner may also stop getting extra money in other benefits, like:

- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit, or
- Council Tax Benefit.

Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

What happens to my child's Disability Living Allowance if my child goes into hospital?

If your child gets Disability Living Allowance and is under 16, it will usually stop after they have been in hospital for more than 12 weeks.

If your child goes into or comes out of hospital, you must tell the Disability and Carers Service straight away.

How do I find out more?

Benefit enquiries (disabled people and carers).

Phone: 0800 882 200

Textphone: 0800 243 355

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm,
Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance

If you go into hospital your benefit should stay the same for up to 52 weeks, as long as you still meet the conditions for getting it.

After 52 weeks your Employment and Support Allowance may be affected. This won't apply if you get Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance unless you also get certain additions to your benefit.

How do I find out more?

Jobcentre Plus

To contact Jobcentre Plus, visit www.direct.gov.uk or see the entry in your phone book.

Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

Income Support

What happens to Income Support if I (or someone I am claiming for) go into hospital?

If you, your partner or a child who you are claiming benefit for go into hospital, your Income Support should stay the same for up to 52 weeks as long as you still meet the conditions for getting it.

If you are getting other benefits that stop earlier because you (or someone you are claiming for) go into hospital, this could affect your Income Support.

If you know you have to stay in hospital for longer, ask Jobcentre Plus for advice.

If you have a partner and you get Income Support, and one (or both) of you has been in hospital for more than 52 weeks, you may each have to claim separately, as two single people.

How do I find out more?

Jobcentre Plus

To contact Jobcentre Plus, visit www.direct.gov.uk or see the entry in your phone book.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

I get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit – what if my circumstances change?

There is no need to tell us if you go into hospital as this will not affect your Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

If you get Constant Attendance Allowance and you go into hospital, you must tell us as soon as you have been in hospital for four weeks.

How do I find out more?

Jobcentre Plus

To contact Jobcentre Plus, visit www.direct.gov.uk or see the entry in your phone book.

Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

Jobseeker's Allowance

What happens to Jobseeker's Allowance if I (or someone I am claiming for) go into hospital?

If you go into hospital, you may be able to still claim Jobseeker's Allowance for up to two weeks, please ask us for advice. After that time you must claim Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support as you cannot meet the conditions for getting Jobseeker's Allowance.

If your partner or a child who you are claiming benefit for go into hospital, your Jobseeker's Allowance should stay the same for up to 52 weeks as long as you still meet the conditions for getting it. If the hospital stay will be for more than 52 weeks, ask us for advice. If your partner or child is in hospital for more than 52 weeks, the amount of benefit you get may go down.

How do I find out more?

Jobcentre Plus

To contact Jobcentre Plus, visit www.direct.gov.uk or see the entry in your phone book.

Pension Credit

How does being in hospital affect my Pension Credit?

If you are single

Your Pension Credit will normally stay the same unless you get extra amounts for:

- severe disability (you will stop getting this extra money once your Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance stops, usually after 28 days in hospital), or
- being a carer (you will stop getting this extra money eight weeks after your Carer's Allowance stops).

If you and your partner are treated as a couple for the purposes of Pension Credit

If one of you goes into hospital, your Pension Credit will normally stay the same for the first 52 weeks. It may reduce if:

- you get an extra amount for severe disability or being a carer (this will stop when the Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance or Carer's Allowance stops), or
- one of you is not likely to go back home after leaving hospital.

Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

If your partner is in hospital and you do not expect them to be able to come back home, we will work out your Pension Credit as if you were a single person. If your partner was the one getting Pension Credit, you will need to apply for Pension Credit yourself.

If you and your partner are both in hospital, your Pension Credit will normally stay the same for the first 52 weeks. It may reduce if:

- one of you gets an extra amount for severe disability or being a carer (this will stop when the Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance or Carer's Allowance stops), or
- you stop being treated as a couple.

After you and your partner have been in hospital for 52 weeks, we will treat you both as single people, unless you both expect to come home soon after that time. If your partner was the one getting Pension Credit, you will need to apply for Pension Credit in your own right.

What counts as a hospital (for Pension Credit)?

An NHS nursing home counts as a hospital when we work out Pension Credit. For example, if you are in hospital for three weeks and an NHS nursing home for five weeks, your total stay in hospital counts as eight weeks.

How do I find out more?

Pension Credit

Phone: 0800 991 234

Textphone: 0800 169 0133

Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk/pensioncredit

State Pension

How going into hospital affects State Pension

Your weekly State Pension is not affected by being in hospital, even if you stay in hospital for longer than 52 weeks. You can also continue to earn extra State Pension or a lump-sum payment if you stay in hospital while you are putting off claiming your State Pension.

But if you get an increase paid with your State Pension for your husband, wife or someone who looks after your children, you need to tell us when you go into and come out of hospital.

How do I find out more?

The Pension Service

Phone: 0845 606 0265

Textphone: 0845 606 0285

Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk/pensions

Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

Other help you can get

Help with housing costs

Your local authority may help you pay your rent and/or council tax if you get:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or
- Pension Credit.

Please contact your local authority for more advice and information.

If you get help with your housing costs through one of the benefits shown above, and you expect to stay in hospital for more than 52 weeks, you should tell The Pension Service, Jobcentre Plus or your local authority straight away. Your partner, if you have one, may be able to claim this help with housing costs instead of you.

If you get Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance, contact Jobcentre Plus for more information on help with housing costs. If you get Pension Credit, contact The Pension Service.

Help with hospital travel costs

If you are having treatment provided by the NHS, you may get help from the NHS with your travel costs:

- when you go into and come out of hospital, and
- when you go to and from hospital as an outpatient or day patient to see a consultant.

You may be able to get this help if you get:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or
- the guarantee part of Pension Credit.

You may also be able to get help through the NHS Low Income Scheme.

How do I find out more?

To find out more about help from the NHS, visit the website for the area where you live:

- England www.nhs.uk/healthcosts
- Wales www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/healthinformation
- Scotland www.scotland.gov.uk/publications

Call charges

Charges were correct as of the date on the back of this leaflet.

Calls to **0800** numbers are free from BT land lines but you may have to pay if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls to **0845** numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 6p a minute with a 10p call set-up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls from mobile phones can cost up to 40p per minute, so check the cost of calls with your service provider.

Textphones

The textphone numbers we provide are for people who find it hard to speak or hear clearly.

Where textphone numbers are provided, these are for people who find it hard to speak or hear clearly.

If you do not have a textphone, some libraries or citizens advice bureaux may have one.

Textphones do not receive text messages from mobile phones.

Directgov provides information from UK government departments on all sorts of topics. To find out about which benefits you may be entitled to, visit www.direct.gov.uk/benefitsadviser

Jobcentre Plus is committed to applying the principles of equal opportunities in its programmes and services.

Produced by Jobcentre Plus, part of the Department for Work and Pensions

ISBN 978-1-84763-044-5

DWP1029 | v2.0 (April 2010)