

## Disability Living Allowance

### Over 16? Diagnosed with cancer?

### You could get Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

#### What is it?

It is a benefit paid to help with the extra costs a disability or serious illness may bring. So you may qualify if you are diagnosed with cancer, leukaemia, tumour or other similar illness.

#### Could you qualify?

You qualify for the benefit if you:

- have a physical or mental disability, or both; and
- have a disability that is severe enough for you to need help with personal care or have walking difficulties, or both.

Also — you must have needed this help for at least three months already, and be likely to need it for at least another six months.

#### There are two parts to DLA

##### PART 1: Care

This is paid at three different rates — higher, middle and lower — depending on how much personal care you need.

##### What does 'personal care' mean?

It's any help you get with washing, dressing, eating, getting to and using the toilet or in and out of bed, communicating with other people, someone keeping an eye on your medical condition or diet, planning and preparing a cooked meal - or something like this.

The middle or higher rates can also be given to someone who needs someone looking after them all the time, to avoid putting themselves or others in 'substantial danger'.

##### Can carers claim anything?

If you get the middle or higher rate, and someone looks after you, they could claim Carer's Allowance – if they care for you for 35 hours per week or more, are over 16 and not in gainful employment or full time education.

##### What about special circumstances?

If you have an illness which is progressive and you are expected to have six months or less to live, you can claim under the 'Special Rules'.

This means you should qualify for the highest level of help with care. You may need to give more information about your mobility, to get extra help with mobility (*to see what this means, see Part TWO — Mobility*).

You will be granted Disability Living Allowance for 3 years and it will not stop if you live for longer than the six month period.

You will need to ask your doctor or consultant for a form known as a **DS1500** and submit it along with the completed application form. A parent or carer can request this form on your behalf.

##### PART 2: Mobility

This is paid at two different rates – higher and lower – depending on the level of help you need with your mobility.

##### What does 'help with mobility' mean?

If you are unable to walk, can only walk short distances without feeling severe discomfort or the effort of walking could threaten your life or affect your health. Also if you need someone to guide or assist you while out walking, or something like this.

## Disability Living Allowance

### *Is there any more help available?*

If you qualify for the higher rate and your award lasts for 12 months or more, you may wish to use the money to lease or buy a car from the Motability scheme. For more information about the Motability scheme telephone: 0845 456 4566.

If you qualify for the higher rate you should qualify for the **Blue Badge scheme** of parking concessions too. You will need to contact your local authority for an application form and qualifying rules.

### **How to claim for DLA**

For the first three months of your illness you cannot get DLA, but you can apply for it. You should do this as soon as you become entitled, as you can't backdate your claim\*.

To claim for DLA and/or Carer's Allowance – call the **Benefit Enquiry Line** on 0800 88 22 00 and ask for an application form.

### *Need help completing the form?*

CLIC Sargent Youth Workers or Social Workers can help you complete your form, or you can contact our specialist benefits adviser at the **Child Cancer Helpline** on 0800 197 0068 or email [helpline@clicsargent.org.uk](mailto:helpline@clicsargent.org.uk).

Alternatively, call the Disability Benefits Centre on 0800 44 11 44 or visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

### *What if circumstances change?*

Report any changes to the Disability Benefits Centre as they occur, as you may qualify for a higher award, or no longer meet the qualifying conditions to get DLA.

### **What if you disagree with a DLA decision?**

If you are refused DLA or are awarded a rate lower than you believe you are entitled to, you can ask them to look into their decision again.

If they still refuse and you still disagree, you can appeal to an independent tribunal. Don't be put off if you are turned down, because the tribunal may overturn their decision.

If you need help, talk to your CLIC Sargent Youth Worker or Social Worker, call the **Child Cancer Helpline** on 0800 197 0068 or email [helpline@clicsargent.org.uk](mailto:helpline@clicsargent.org.uk).

### **More facts about DLA**

- If you are an in-patient when you first qualify, your payments will start when you are discharged from hospital.
- If you are already receiving DLA and go into hospital, your payments will continue for up to 28 days. Then if you are discharged, they will start again. But if you are admitted again within 28 days it will be linked to your previous admission and treated as one period.
- If someone is receiving Carer's Allowance for looking after you this will stop while your Disability Living Allowance is suspended.

### **Will you help us Cut the Red Tape?**

CLIC Sargent thinks that DLA is an important benefit, and we can see how much it helps children and young people with cancer. But we do not agree that you should wait three months before you can qualify to get it.

And we also think that the forms are too long and complicated to fill in! So we are asking government to 'Cut the Red Tape' and support us in getting these things changed.

**Will you add your voice?** Find out more at:

[www.clicsargent.org.uk/Getinvolved/Campaignwithus/Cuttheredtape](http://www.clicsargent.org.uk/Getinvolved/Campaignwithus/Cuttheredtape)