

Attendance Allowance after brain injury



This publication is part of Headway's *welfare benefits after brain injury* series. To browse through our publications on a range of issues relating to brain injury and download these free-of-charge, visit www.headway.org.uk/information-library.

Introduction

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a benefit for people with a long-term disability who have reached the State Pension age.

Brain injury survivors who are living with a long-term disability as a result of the injury and have reached the State Pension age may be eligible for AA. This publication has been written to offer information on this benefit and the process of applying for it.

Rules for welfare benefits change regularly. You should always check the latest guidance at www.gov.uk/browse/benefits.

What is AA?

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a benefit for people above the State Pension age with a disability that is severe enough for them to need help with care.

If someone is below the State Pension age and living with a disability, they can apply for Personal Independence Payment instead. More information on this is available in our publication [Personal Independence Payment after brain injury](#).

There is a 'higher' and 'lower' rate of AA - a person's level of disability will determine whether they receive the higher or lower rate. At the time of writing, this is £68.10 per week for the lower rate and £101.75 for the higher rate. AA is usually paid every four weeks.

AA is not means-tested - therefore any savings and income that you have will not be taken into consideration for eligibility.

Helpline: 0808 800 2244
Email: helpline@headway.org.uk
Web: www.headway.org.uk

Applying for AA

You will need to complete an AA claim form to apply. You can either download and print the form yourself at www.gov.uk/government/publications/attendance-allowance-claim-form or contact the AA helpline to receive a copy (details area available at the end of this publication).

The AA claim form will ask you about any help you need with looking after yourself such as with your personal hygiene, getting dressed, moving around, eating and drinking and socialising. You will also be asked about any additional care needs you have during the night. You do not need to be living with a carer or anyone else to be eligible.

If you need help with completing the form, you can call the AA helpline. Guidance on completing forms is also available in our publication [Tips for completing benefits application forms after brain injury](#).

In some very rare instances you may be asked to attend an assessment if further information on the impact of your brain injury is needed.

After you apply

It usually takes around 6 weeks to receive an application decision letter.

If you are considered eligible for AA, you will either receive a lower rate or a higher rate.

AA will stop being paid if you need to go to hospital and are there for more than 28 days. This includes if you are collectively in for 28 days across separate visits. However, it will start to be paid again once you leave hospital. You must therefore inform the DWP about any hospital stays, or any other changes to your circumstances that might affect your entitlement.

AA can be spent however you choose; it does not need to be spent on employing a carer. If you already have someone caring for you and you start to receive AA, your carer may become eligible for Carer's Allowance - seek advice from a benefits advisor for guidance on this. More information is available in our

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publication [Carer's Allowance after brain injury](#).

If it is decided that you are not eligible for AA and you disagree with this, or you do not agree with the rate of AA you are on, you can ask for a mandatory reconsideration. Further guidance on this is available in our publication [Appealing a welfare benefits decision](#).

Useful contact numbers

Attendance Allowance helpline

Telephone: 0800 731 0122

Textphone: 0800 731 0317

Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 731 0122

www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance

Citizens Advice

Adviceline (England): 0800 144 8848

Advicelink (Wales): 0800 702 2020

Relay UK - if you can't hear or speak on the phone, you can type what you want to say: 18001 then 0800 144 8884

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

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