

CLAIMING PIP: HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL FACTSHEET

WHAT IS PIP

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit to help with extra living costs. It's for people who need help with daily living because of a disability or health condition.
- PIP is based on how much help a person needs. You cannot get PIP just for having a condition or disability.
- Some of the daily living activities that are assessed for PIP include:
 - Cooking a meal
 - Washing and dressing
 - Managing toileting, and incontinence, if applicable
 - Moving around
- PIP looks at the effect of all conditions and disabilities together.

EVIDENCE FOR PIP CLAIMS

- Evidence can help PIP assessors better understand how your patient's condition affects their day-to-day life.
- Your evidence can be particularly important for patients with "hidden" conditions or disabilities. It can help show the PIP assessor the true effect of living with these conditions or disabilities.
- Evidence will be combined with other information, including a form that your patient fills out. The PIP assessor may also invite your patient to a consultation.
- Both the PIP assessor and your patient can ask you for evidence.

Your patient might not have fully disclosed to you how their condition affects their daily life. It may be helpful to ask them about a typical day and what difficulties they have.

DESCRIBING CONDITIONS

The most helpful evidence confirms which activities your patient has difficulty with and why. Where possible, it's helpful to describe the effect that their condition has on their ability to do daily tasks. Consider if it means they struggle to do a task:

- Independently
- Safely
- Timely
- As often as needed
- To a good standard

This is also important if a condition is clinically stable. A condition may be stable but still cause significant symptoms, functional limitations or support needs. Where relevant, explain any ongoing difficulties the patient experiences.

You may want to include both the clinical description, and an explanation of how this affects daily activities.

Clinical description:

"Weakness and lethargy due to anaemia resulting from chronic disease and blood loss."

The effect on daily activities:

"Breathless and unsteady, even when walking a short distance or using stairs.

Takes twice as long on stairs as someone without the condition."

"Poor concentration, very slow performing daily activities, needs reminding to take medication and safely carry out activities of daily living such as locking doors and turning off appliances."

Describing frequency

If a patient's condition or ability varies, it's helpful to state this in any evidence. For example:

- Fatigue severe enough that someone has to prepare meals for them for at least two out of four weeks.
- Unpredictable urgency to open bowels over ten times a day for at least four days a week.