

Personal Independence Payments (PIP) presentation script.

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Hello and welcome to an introduction to Personal Independence Payments (PIP). This presentation is brought to you by the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium part of The National Autistic society.

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What are Personal Independence Payments (PIP)?

- PIP is a benefit for disabled people aged 16 and above. It replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA). When a DLA claim is about to end, you will receive a letter and be invited to apply for PIP. It won't transfer automatically
- PIP is a cash benefit and can be spent however you need to spend it
- PIP can be paid to people regardless of whether they are working or in education

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What is PIP?

- PIP can be paid to you if you are also getting other benefits such as [Employment and Support Allowance](#), Jobseeker's Allowance or [Universal Credit](#).
- PIP is not means-tested (it doesn't matter how much money you have)
- To claim PIP you need to complete a claim form

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How is PIP assessed?

- Some parts of PIP are similar to DLA, for example it has two components which are "Daily Living" and "Mobility". You can qualify for either or both components and each can be paid at different rates
- The assessment, for most people, includes a face-to-face appointment with a health care professional
- You must have met the criteria for three months before the payments start, and you must be likely to continue to meet the criteria for a further nine months

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How is PIP assessed?

- Awards of PIP are generally for fixed periods of time (rather than indefinite or lifetime awards)
- When your fixed term award ends, you will need to make another claim

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What are the criteria for PIP?

- PIP awards are based on a points criteria

- For each component (Mobility and Daily Living) there is a list of statements known as **descriptors**. Each descriptor is worth a certain number of points and if that descriptor applies to you, you score that number of points

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What are the criteria for PIP?

- You can score points in a number of different sections. Your overall point score determines whether you are entitled to the Mobility and/or Daily Living components
- The score also determines which rate you receive. If you score between eight and 11 points, you are eligible for the standard rate of that component. If you score 12 points or more, you are awarded the enhanced rate

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Daily living criteria

The daily living component of PIP includes the following:

- **Preparing food** (including needing prompting or supervision to cook)
- **Taking nutrition** (which means eating, including needing prompting or supervision)
- **Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition** (including needing reminding to take medication)
- **Washing and bathing** (including needing prompting or supervision to wash)
- **Managing toilet needs or incontinence** (including needing prompting or supervision)

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The daily living criteria also includes:

- **Dressing and undressing** (including needing prompting)
- **Communicating verbally** (including needing communication support)
- **Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words** (including needing prompting to read or understand written information)
- **Engaging with other people face-to-face** (which means being able to interact in an appropriate manner, understand body language and establish relationships)
- **Making budgeting decisions** (which includes the need for assistance when planning a budget or paying bills)

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The mobility component criteria includes:

- **Planning and following a journey** (including needing prompting or assistance to make a journey)
- **Moving around** (this looks at physical ability to move around)

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When thinking of each of the things we listed on the daily living and mobility component slides it is useful to apply the 'Safely, repeatedly and in reasonable time' rule

- **Safely:** That the person is unlikely to cause harm to themselves or another person, during or after the activity
- **Repeatedly:** That the person can complete the activity often/or every time the activity needs to be completed (not just on a good day!)
- **In reasonable time:** That it take the person no more than twice the time it would take a non-disabled person

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Some definitions

- 'A simple meal' is not a ready meal, it is a meal cooked from fresh ingredients
- 'Unaided' means no prompting or assistance of any kind
- 'Assistance' is physical and doesn't include speech
- 'Supervision' means the continuous presence of another person to keep you safe

Check the definitions handout before answering each question. Fill in as much detail as you can

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Top tips

- Get help from a benefits advisor, friend or family member for an outside view
- Do not assume the assessor knows anything about autism
- Be detailed, honest and comprehensive about all difficulties
- Consider attaching a daily activities diary
- You can ask for a home visit rather than attending an assessment centre, but you may need a supporting letter from a GP or social care professional saying you cannot travel

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The decision

- A decision about your entitlement is made by a decision maker at the Department of Work and Pensions. A formal decision letter is posted to you. If you disagree with the decision, you have the right to [challenge](#) it. If you still disagree after the reconsideration, you have the right to appeal to an independent tribunal
- Once you have received the PIP decision letter, you have a legal right to request a [reconsideration](#)

For more information go to the useful links page at the end of this session

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On this page you'll find useful links on the topic of applying for Personal Independence Payments.

- www.gov.uk/pip
- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/before-claiming/how-much-you-get-and-how-long/>
- <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/benefits-and-money/benefits/types-of-benefit/personal-independence-payment>