

About the Personal Independence Payment assessment

Tell us what you think

August 2011



Easy Read

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

Important

Maroon writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold maroon** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a **light purple** box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal maroon** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.

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CDS, 7 Eastgate, Leeds LS2 7LY
Tel: 0113 399 4000
Web: www.cds.co.uk/clarity

Contents

What this booklet is about	5
What we have been doing	6
The rules.....	7
Can people carry out 11 everyday activities	9
Planning and buying food	9
Preparing and cooking food.....	10
Feeding and drinking.....	10
Taking medicines and looking after your health	11
Doing treatments a health expert says are important.....	11
Washing and getting ready.....	12
Using the toilet and controlling body waste in other ways	12
Dressing and undressing	12
Talking and listening to others	13
Planning a journey and following the plan.....	14
Moving around.....	14
Giving points	15
Aids and appliances	16
Support from other people	16

Changing health conditions17

Testing the changes we want to make and
making them better.....18

Word list19

Notes.....20

What this booklet is about

The government is thinking about changing **Disability Living Allowance** to a new benefit called **Personal Independence Payment** from 2013.

Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the help and support they need.

Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live full, active and independent lives. Disabled people who can get the benefit will get money to help them pay the extra costs of being disabled.

The **assessment** for **Personal Independence Payment** will give support to the people who need the most support to live full, active and independent lives.

Assessment

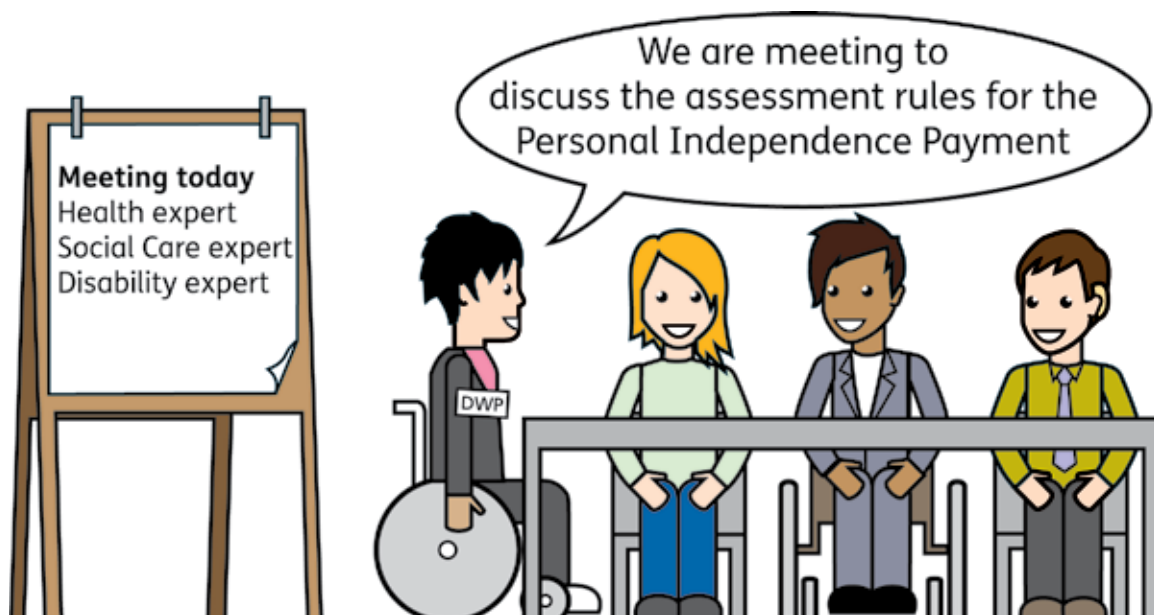
This is the method the Department for Work and Pensions will use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**.

This booklet tells you what we are thinking about doing and how we will decide which people can get **Personal Independence Payment**.

We want to ask for your ideas on how well our ideas will work and if they can be made better.

What we have been doing

We have been working with a group of independent experts in health, social care and disability to come up with our ideas for **Personal Independence Payment**.



We thought about how we would work out which people need **Personal Independence Payment** the most. We also thought about how we could look at the extra costs disabled people have.

We decided that the best way of doing this was to look at how well people can take part in everyday life.

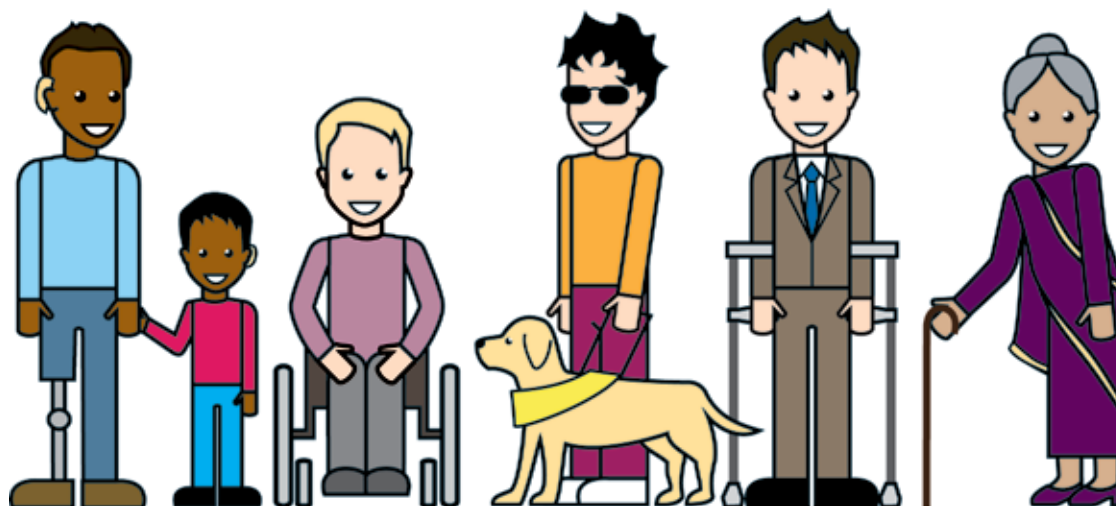
The assessment rules

We want to make **assessment** rules that are clear to understand and that are correct.

We do not want **assessment** rules that look at the type of **impairment** a person has. We want **assessment** rules that look at how an **impairment** affects a person's life.

Impairment

This is something about the way a person does things. It may be things like being unable to walk well, not being able to see or hear other people clearly, not being able to think hard for a long time, or not being able to remember things.

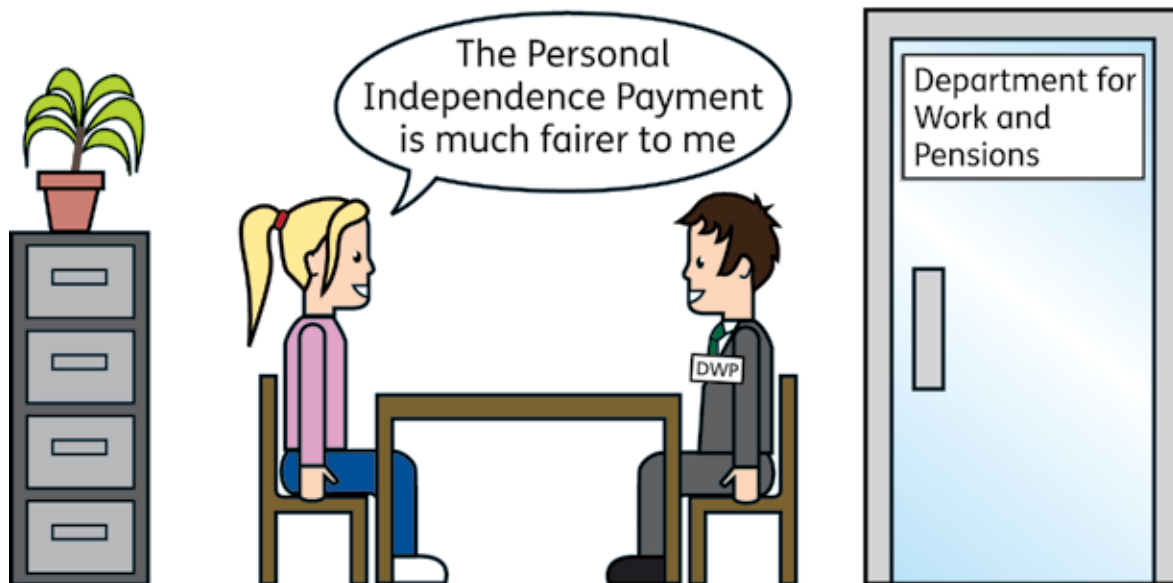


DWP About the Personal Independence Payment assessment

We know that we must take account of health conditions that change a lot and that the person is able to stay safe.

We want **Personal Independence Payment** to be fairer than **Disability Living Allowance**. We want to treat all **impairments** fairly.

We think that our new **assessment** rules will deal with all the different types of disability in a better and fairer way.



Can people carry out 11 everyday activities?

We will look at whether people can take part in everyday life. The assessment will do this by looking at how a person's **impairments** affect the way they can do 11 everyday activities the government thinks are most important.

Planning and buying food

This looks at whether a person can think about and plan what food and drink they need and then buy that food and drink.

It includes a person being able to think about what to eat and drink, to choose the food and drink and to buy it. They also need to be able to make sure they have enough money for food and drink.

It is not about a person being able to get to the shops.



Preparing and cooking food

This looks at whether a person can make a simple meal or an uncooked snack. It is about whether their impairment affects their ability to do these things. It is not about whether a person knows how to cook.

It includes if a person can open packets, serve food, peel and chop food and cook or heat food.



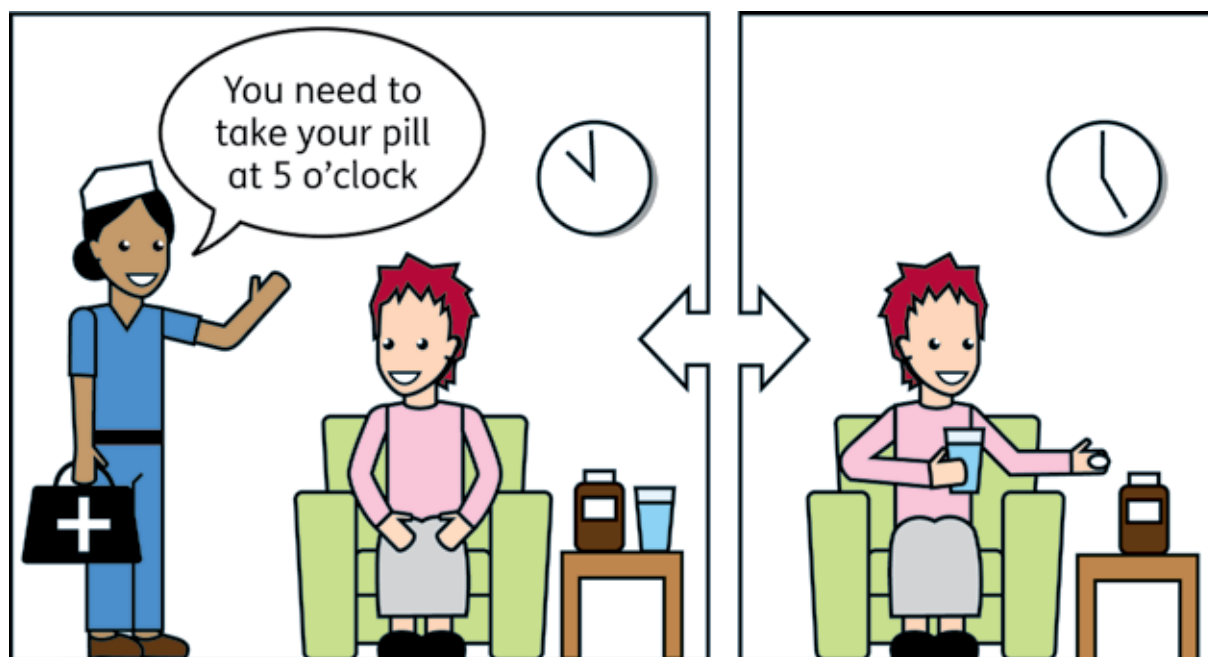
Feeding and drinking

This looks at whether a person can eat or get food and drink in other ways, like through a tube into the stomach.

Taking medicines and looking after health

This looks at whether a person can take their medicine at the right time and to look for any changes in their health condition.

It is about how often a person needs support to do these things.



Doing treatments a health expert says are important

This looks at whether a person can take care of any treatments that a doctor or nurse has said they need to do at home. It also looks at how long the person needs support for the treatments to be carried out.

Washing and getting ready

This looks at whether a person can clean the top half of their body, and whether they can brush their teeth and wash their hair.

It includes the way people look, which is called their appearance, and if they are clean.

Using the toilet and controlling body waste in other ways

This looks at whether a person can get on and off the toilet. It also looks at whether a person can go to the toilet and clean themselves afterwards.

Dressing and undressing

This looks at whether a person can choose the clothes they want to wear. It also looks at whether they are able to get dressed and undressed.



Talking and listening to others

This looks at whether a person can talk to other people or communicate with other people using aids or with support from another person.

It includes whether talking or communicating with other people upsets the person a lot.



Planning a journey and following the plan

This looks at whether a person can plan a trip and follow the planned route for the trip. It is about a person being able to think about a plan, making the plan and then following the planned route.

It includes whether planning the trip or following the planned route for the trip upsets the person a lot.

Moving around

This looks at whether a person can move around outdoors and over different distances.

It includes a pain or tiredness the person feels because they are moving around a lot.



Giving points

The assessment will look at how well a person can do the 11 everyday activities. People will be given a number of points depending on how well they can do each activity. People who cannot do the activities very well will get the most points.

Personal Independence Payment will have two parts – one part to help with living costs and the other to help with getting about. Each part can be paid at 2 amounts – the standard rate and a higher amount for people with greater needs.

The total number of points a person gets will show which parts and rates of **Personal Independence Payment** they can have.

We have not yet decided how many points people will need for each part and rate of **Personal Independence Payment**.

Aids and appliances

An aid helps a person do something better. For example if a person is walking or reading, the aid could be walking sticks or glasses.

An appliance is something that gives a person something they are missing or it replaces something the person is missing. For example artificial limbs and wheelchairs.

We will look at whether a person needs aids and appliances to complete the 11 everyday activities, but only those that the person normally uses.

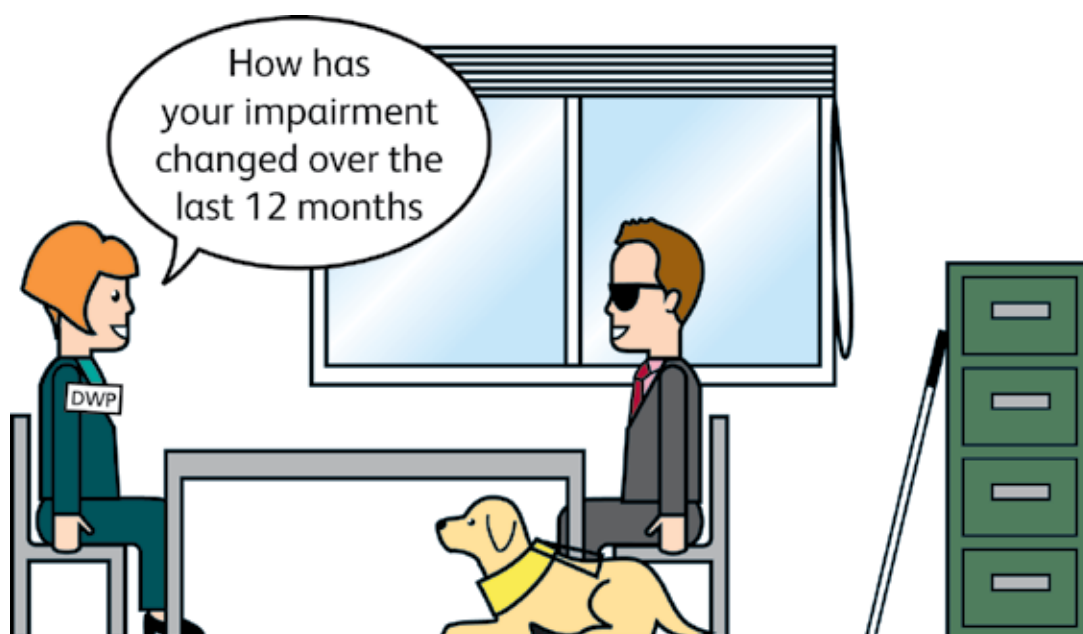
Support from other people

We will look at whether people need help and support from other people to carry out the 11 everyday activities. We will look at the type of support the person needs and how often the person needs support.



Changing health conditions

To make sure that we know how a person's health condition has changed, we will look at it over a 12-month period. We will look at what the person has been able to do for most of the 12 months. We will also look at whether the person can do things safely and whether they can do them over and over again.



Testing the changes we want to make and making them better

We need to know that the changes we are thinking of making will work properly and that we know how they will affect people.

We want to hear from disabled people and their organisations on how well the assessment rules will work and if they can be made better.

You must tell us what you think by **31 August 2011**.

You can tell us what you think in 2 ways.

You can send an email to pip.assessment@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

You can post a letter to

DLA Reform - Assessment Development
Department for Work and Pensions
2nd Floor - Area B
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA.

We will also carry out some testing over the summer.
We will write and print a revised draft of the assessment rules in the autumn.

Word list

Assessment

This is the method the Department for Work and Pensions will use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**.....5

Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the help and support they need5

Impairment

This is something about the way a person does things. It may be things like being unable to walk well, not being able to see or hear other people clearly, not being able to think hard for a long time, or not being able to remember things.....7

Personal Independence Payment

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Copies of the full report can be made available in other formats on request. Our contact details are shown below.

DLA Reform – Assessment Development
Department for Work and Pensions
2nd Floor, Area B
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

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