

ADM Chapter G3: Limited capability for work and work–related activity

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Introduction G3001 - G3004

Introduction

G3001 A claimant has LCWRA where their capability for work and work-related activity is limited by their physical or mental condition and it is not reasonable to require them to undertake work-related activity¹.

1 [WR Act 12, s 37\(2\)](#)

G3002 A claimant has LCWRA where

1. it is determined that they have LCWRA on the basis of the WCA, whether for the purposes of UC or ESA¹ (see G3040 et seq) **or**
2. they are treated as having LCWRA² (see G3005 et seq).

See ADM Chapter G1 for guidance on the WCA.

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(1\)\(a\); ESA Regs 13, Part 5](#); 2 [UC Regs, reg 40\(1\)\(b\) & \(5\) & Sch 9](#)

G3003 The question of whether a claimant has LCWRA is relevant in order to determine

1. if the LCWRA element can be included in the UC award¹**and**
2. what work-related requirements group the claimant falls into (if any)² **and**
3. which income and work allowance deduction is applicable³ **and**
4. where the claimant is also eligible for receipt of the carer element, which element is payable.

See ADM Chapter F5 for guidance on work capability elements, Chapter J2 for guidance on work-related requirements groups, Chapter E2 (Awards and maximum amount of UC) for guidance on income and work allowance deductions, and Chapter F6 for guidance on the carer element.

1 [UC Regs, reg 27\(1\)\(b\) & \(2\)](#); 2 [WR Act 12, s 19](#); [UC Regs, reg 22](#); [UC Reg 29\(4\)](#)

G3004

Treated as having LCWRA G3005 - G3006

G3005 [See [Memo ADM 06/25](#)] Certain claimants can be treated as having LCWRA and do not have to undergo the WCA¹. This is where the claimant

1. is terminally ill² (see G3007) **or**

2. is pregnant and there is a serious risk of damage to her health or that of her unborn child if she does any work or work-related activity³ (see G3010) **or**

3. is

3.1 receiving **or**

3.2 likely to receive **or**

3.3 recovering from

treatment for cancer by way of chemotherapy or radiotherapy⁴ (see G3015) **or**

4. has reached the qualifying age for SPC and is entitled to specified rates of DLA or PIP (see G3030)⁵.

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(1\)\(b\) & \(5\)](#); 2 [Sch 9, para 1](#); 3 [para 2](#); 4 [para 3](#); 5 [para 5](#)

Note 1: See ADM Chapter G1 for guidance on where a claimant is treated as having LCWRA for the purposes of ESA.

Note 2: See ADM Chapter F5 for guidance on when the LCWRA element is included from.

G3006 Certain claimants can be treated as having LCWRA when they have been found not to have LCWRA following application of the WCA¹. This is where the claimant is suffering from a specific illness, disease or disablement where there would be a substantial risk of damage to anyone's physical or mental health if the claimant were found not to have LCWRA¹ (see G3020 et seq).

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(1\)\(b\) & \(6\)](#); [Sch 9, para 4](#)

Terminally ill G3007 - G3009

G3007 “Terminally ill” is defined as a claimant who is suffering from a progressive disease and death in consequence of that disease can be reasonably expected within 12 months¹. This is known as “special rules”.

1 [UC Regs, reg 2](#)

G3008 Claimants applying for the LCWRA element under special rules are terminally ill as diagnosed by a GP or other HCP. DMs should note that evidence of being terminally ill may have been supplied for the purposes of ESA, DLA or PIP.

G3009 A claimant entitled to UC who becomes terminally ill must make an application for supersession expressly on the ground of being terminally ill before the LCWRA element can be included in their award of UC¹. See ADM Chapter A4 for guidance on supersession.

1 [UC, PIP, JSA & ESA \(D&A\) Regs, reg 23\(2\)](#)

Pregnant women G3010 - G3011

G3010 “Sickness of pregnancy”, which can also be described as “emesis”, “hyperemesis”, “hyperemesis gravidarum”, or “morning sickness”, comes within the definition of a disease. This condition usually occurs between the 29th and 34th weeks before the EWC but can also be accepted outside that period when it may include a complication in the pregnancy.

Note: “Pregnancy” itself does not come within the definition of a disease.

G3011 The claimant should provide evidence of LCWRA, for example

- 1.** a complication in the pregnancy **or**
- 2.** a medical condition not related to pregnancy.

G3012 – G3014

Cancer treatment G3015 - G3017

G3015 A claimant can be treated as having LCWRA if¹

1. they are

1.1 receiving treatment for cancer by way of chemotherapy or radiotherapy **or**

1.2 likely to receive treatment as in **1.1** within six months after the date of the LCWRA determination **or**

1.3 recovering from treatment as in **1.1** and

2. the DM is satisfied that the claimant should be treated as having LCW and LCWRA.

[1 UC Regs, Sch 9, para 3](#)

G3016 The claimant is asked in the questionnaire (form UC50) to ensure that their HCP completes page 20 of the form, giving details of the diagnosis, treatment including how long it is likely to last, and the expected recovery period, as well as an opinion on the effects on the claimant's ability to work. The claimant is asked to complete the form as normal if other health conditions are present.

Note: See ADM Chapter G1 (WCA) for guidance on when the claimant does not return the questionnaire.

G3017 The DM should take into account the debilitating effects of the treatment in G3015 **1.** when considering whether the claimant should be treated as having LCWRA. The presumption is that claimants who fall within G3015 **1.** will be treated as having LCWRA, where the cancer treatment has work limiting side effects, and those effects are likely to limit all forms of work.

Example 1

Martin is diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus, and has a course of chemotherapy to reduce the size of the tumour. Once the treatment starts, Martin becomes too ill to work, and claims and is awarded UC. He is referred for the WCA. In the UC50, Martin's oncologist states that the chemotherapy will continue for 3 months, after which it is hoped to remove the tumour surgically. He will probably require a course of radiotherapy after that. The treatment so far has left Martin feeling very tired, nauseous and weak, as well as giving him difficulties with speaking, eating and drinking. The HCP recommends that Martin is treated as having LCWRA for 9 months, before referring for a further WCA to see if Martin's condition has improved. The DM accepts the advice, and determines that Martin has LCWRA.

Example 2

Jay has exploratory surgery as a day patient to remove a lump in his groin. He is diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He starts a course of chemotherapy, and is awarded UC after the second treatment leaves him unable to work.

Jay is referred for the WCA. In the UC50, his oncologist says that Jay will have up to 8 chemotherapy treatments by injection every three weeks. Jay is often too weak to get out of bed as a result of the treatment. He has loss of sensation in his hands and feet, and is prone to falling. He has twice been admitted to hospital for treatment for dehydration due to vomiting and diarrhoea. If the side effects continue, the chemotherapy treatment may stop and be replaced by radiotherapy over a longer period. He is likely to take at least six months to recover from the chemotherapy.

Medical advice is that Jay should be treated as having LCWRA, with a review after a year. The DM accepts the advice.

Example 3

Heather is diagnosed with primary breast cancer following a mammogram. She is admitted to hospital for surgery to remove the tumour, and is required to stay in hospital for 24 hours or longer. She claims and is awarded UC. Heather is referred for the WCA. On the UC50, Heather's oncologist states that Heather will start a course of radiotherapy in about 4 weeks. The radiotherapy will be likely to make her very tired for several months as the treatment progresses, and after it has ended. The HCP recommends that Heather should be treated as having LCW and LCWRA for 6 months, with a further review to check on progress. The DM determines that Heather is treated as having LCWRA.

Example 4

Rachel has difficulties with mobility, standing and sitting and reaching as a result of generalised arthritis. A small spot on her nose is diagnosed as a melanoma or skin cancer. The melanoma is surgically removed under local anaesthetic. She claims and is awarded UC.

Rachel is referred for the WCA. Her GP completes the statement in the UC50 to say that Rachel had facial pain, bruising and swelling for two weeks after the surgery. She will be referred for a single session of radiotherapy, but this is unlikely to affect her ability to work. Rachel completes the rest of the questionnaire to give details about how her arthritis affects her ability to work.

Rachel is required to attend for medical examination. The HCP is of the opinion that Rachel does not satisfy any of the LCW or LCWRA descriptors, and should not be treated as having LCW or LCWRA, because although she is due to have radiotherapy treatment, this is not likely to have any debilitating effects. The DM accepts the advice, and determines that Rachel does not have, and is not treated as having, LCW or LCWRA.

Substantial risk G3020 - G3023

G3020 [\[See Memo ADM 02/18 which now Appendix 2 to Chapter ADM U2\]](#) The claimant is treated as having LCWRA if they are suffering from a specific illness, disease or bodily or mental disablement, by reason of which there would be a substantial risk to the mental or physical health of any person if the claimant were found not to have LCWRA¹ – see G3021.

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(5\)](#) & [Sch 9, para 4](#)

Meaning of substantial risk

G3021 ‘Substantial’ is not defined and should be given its ordinary meaning. What amounts to ‘substantial’ is a question which must be determined using all the available evidence and taking account of all the circumstances.

G3022 The substantial risk can be to the claimant or to any other person. For example, the claimant’s mental health may be such that they may self-harm or self-neglect or may be violent to others.

G3023 A claimant’s anxiety or concern about their ability to cope with the demands of work-related activity does not constitute a substantial risk.

G3024 – G3029

Claimant disabled and over State Pension Credit age G3030

G3030 [[See Memo ADM 02/25](#)] [[See Memo ADM 06/25](#)] A claimant is treated as having LCWRA where¹ they

1. have reached the qualifying age for SPC² (see DMG Chapter 77) **and**

2. are entitled to

2.1 AA³

2.2 the highest rate care component of DLA⁴ **or**

2.3 the enhanced rate daily living component of PIP⁵.

1 [UC Regs, Sch 9, para 5](#); 2 [SPC Act 02, s 1\(6\)](#); 3 [SS CB Act 92, s 64](#); 4 s [72\(4\)\(a\)](#); 5 [WR Act 12, s 78\(2\)](#)

G3031 – G3039

Assessed as having limited capability for work and work-related activity G3040 - G3059

[Introduction](#) G3040 - G3044

[Determining limited capability for work and work-related activity](#) G3050 - G3059

Introduction

G3040 Where the claimant is not treated as having LCWRA as in G3010 et seq, the question of whether

- 1.** a claimant's capability for work-related activity is limited by their physical or mental condition **and**
- 2.** the limitation is such that it is not reasonable to require that claimant to undertake work-related activity

is determined on the basis of a WCA¹.

Note: See ADM Chapter G1 for detailed guidance on the WCA process.

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(1\)\(a\) & \(2\)](#)

G3041 The WCA assesses the claimant's ability to perform specified activities. The performance of those activities is measured by descriptors¹.

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(2\) & Sch 7](#)

G3042 The extent to which a claimant can or cannot carry out an activity is determined by which descriptor applies to that claimant.

G3043 As part of the WCA, claimants may be required to complete a questionnaire, and if necessary to attend a medical examination. If they fail without a good reason to do either, they can be treated as not having LCWRA¹. See ADM Chapter G1 for detailed guidance.

1 [UC Regs, reg 43\(3\) & 44\(2\)](#)

G3044 A claimant has LCWRA if, on application of the WCA

- 1.** at least one of the descriptors applies¹ **and**

2. the descriptor applies for the majority of the time or occasions when the claimant undertakes or tries to undertake the activity².

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(2\)\(a\)](#); 2 [reg 40\(4\)](#)

G3045 – G3049

Determining limited capability for work and work-related activity

G3050 Where the WCA applies, the DM must determine in relation to each activity which of the descriptors apply to the claimant due to a specific bodily or mental disease, illness or disablement¹.

Note: See ADM Chapter G1 for detailed guidance on the WCA process.

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(2\)\(a\)](#) & [Sch 7](#)

G3051 When assessing the extent of the claimant's LCWRA, it is a condition that the claimant's inability to perform¹

1. physical descriptors² arises

1.1 from a specific bodily (i.e. physical) disease or disablement **or**

1.2 as a direct result of treatment by a registered medical practitioner for such a condition **and**

2. mental descriptors³ arises

2.1 from a specific mental illness or disablement **or**

2.2 as a direct result of treatment by a registered medical practitioner for such a condition.

1 [UC Regs, reg 40\(3\)](#); 2 [Sch 7, descriptors 1–8, 15\(a\) or \(b\), 16\(a\) or \(b\)](#);

3 [Sch 7, descriptors 9–14, 15\(c\) or \(d\), 16\(c\) or \(d\)](#)

Example

Brian suffers from rheumatoid arthritis in his hands and knees, and claims ESA. In the questionnaire Brian states that due to cognitive and mental impairment he has difficulty with learning tasks, awareness of hazards and completing personal actions. At the medical examination, Brian explains that the high level of painkillers he takes for his arthritis makes him too tired to concentrate. The HCP advises that Brian is mentally disabled by the medication, but not sufficiently to satisfy any mental health descriptors.

G3052 The DM determines whether the assessment is satisfied from

- 1.** the questionnaire (form UC50) if one is available (see ADM Chapter G1) **and**
- 2.** a statement from the GP¹ if one is available **and**
- 3.** the medical report of the claimant's ability to perform the specified functions (UC85) **and**
- 4.** the personalised summary statement **and**
- 5.** any other relevant evidence.

1 [SS \(Med Ev\) Regs, reg 2\(1\)](#)

G3053 The normal principles apply to considering the evidence (see ADM Chapter A1).

G3054 The WCA does not have to be satisfied in respect of each day¹. A claimant should satisfy the test throughout a period. A claimant whose condition varies from day to day and who would easily satisfy the WCA on three days a week and would nearly satisfy it on the other four days might have LCWRA for the whole week.

1 [R\(IB\) 2/99](#)

G3055 A claimant may have long periods of illness separated by periods of remission lasting some weeks, during which he or she suffers no significant disablement; such a claimant might have LCWRA during the periods of illness but not have LCWRA during the periods of remission. This is so even if the periods of illness are longer than the periods of remission¹.

1 [R\(IB\) 2/99](#)

G3056 The test of whether a claimant cannot perform an activity is not purely based on whether they are physically incapable of performing it. Matters such as pain, discomfort and repeatability are taken into account. A claimant is not capable of carrying out an activity if they can only do so with severe pain or, if having done it once, they are unable to repeat it for hours or days. The extent of a claimant's ability to repeat the activity in a single stretch and of the intervals at which the claimant would be able to repeat the performance should be identified. A decision can then be made on whether the claimant can perform the relevant descriptor with reasonable regularity.

G3057 There is no specific requirement that a claimant must be able to perform the activity in question with "reasonable regularity". Even so regard should be had to some such concept. The real issue is whether, taking an overall view of the claimant's limited capability to perform the activity in question, they should reasonably be considered to be incapable of performing it. The fact that they might occasionally manage to accomplish it, would be of no consequence if, for most of the time, and in most circumstances, they could not do so¹.

G3058 Where relevant descriptors are expressed in terms that the claimant “cannot” perform the activity, the DM should not stray too far from an arithmetical approach that considers what the claimant’s abilities are most of the time¹.

G3059 The DM should decide which descriptor applies to each activity. Provided the determination is sufficiently supported by evidence, for each activity the DM can select the descriptor from the medical report (UC85), the evidence provided by the claimant (including the UC50 questionnaire), or a different descriptor.

G3060 – G3999

The content of the examples in this document (including use of imagery) is for illustrative purposes only

Appendix 1 - Schedule 7 - Assessment of whether a Claimant has Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity

SCHEDULE 7

ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER A CLAIMANT HAS LIMITED CAPABILITY FOR WORK AND WORK-RELATED ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTORS
1. Mobilising unaided by another person with or without a walking stick, manual wheelchair or other aid if such aid is normally, or could reasonably be, worn or used.	Cannot either: (a) mobilise more than 50 metres on level ground without stopping in order to avoid significant discomfort or exhaustion; or (b) repeatedly mobilise 50 metres within a reasonable timescale because of significant discomfort or exhaustion.
2. Transferring from one seated position to another.	Cannot move between one seated position and another seated position located next to one another without receiving physical assistance from another person.
3. Reaching.	Cannot raise either arm as if to put something in the top pocket of a coat or jacket.
4. Picking up and moving or transferring by the use of the upper body and arms (excluding standing, sitting, bending or kneeling and all other activities specified in this Schedule).	Cannot pick up and move a 0.5 litre carton full of liquid.
5. Manual dexterity.	Cannot press a button (such as a telephone keypad) with either hand or cannot turn the pages of a book with either hand.
6. Making self understood through speaking, writing, typing, or other means which are normally, or could reasonably be, used, unaided by another person.	Cannot convey a simple message, such as the presence of a hazard.
7. Understanding communication by:	Cannot understand a simple message, such

<p>(i) verbal means (such as hearing or lip reading) alone,</p> <p>(ii) non-verbal means (such as reading 16 point print or Braille) alone, or</p> <p>(iii) a combination of (i) and (ii),</p> <p>using any aid that is normally, or could reasonably be, used, unaided by another person.</p>	<p>as the location of a fire escape, due to sensory impairment.</p>
<p>8. Absence or loss of control whilst conscious leading to extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or voiding of the bladder, other than enuresis (bed-wetting), despite the wearing or use of any aids or adaptations which are normally, or could reasonably be, worn or used.</p>	<p>At least once a week experiences:</p> <p>(a) loss of control leading to extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or voiding of the bladder; or</p> <p>(b) substantial leakage of the contents of a collecting device</p> <p>sufficient to require the individual to clean themselves and change clothing.</p>
<p>9. Learning tasks.</p>	<p>Cannot learn how to complete a simple task, such as setting an alarm clock, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder.</p>
<p>10. Awareness of hazard.</p>	<p>Reduced awareness of everyday hazards, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder, leads to a significant risk of:</p> <p>(a) injury to self or others; or</p> <p>(b) damage to property or possessions</p> <p>such that the claimant requires supervision for the majority of the time to maintain safety.</p>
<p>11. Initiating and completing personal action (which means planning, organisation, problem solving, prioritising or switching tasks).</p>	<p>Cannot, due to impaired mental function, reliably initiate or complete at least 2 sequential personal actions.</p>
<p>12. Coping with change.</p>	<p>Cannot cope with any change, due to</p>

	cognitive impairment or mental disorder, to the extent that day to day life cannot be managed.
13. Coping with social engagement, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder.	Engagement in social contact is always precluded due to difficulty relating to others or significant distress experienced by the claimant.
14. Appropriateness of behaviour with other people, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder.	Has, on a daily basis, uncontrollable episodes of aggressive or disinhibited behaviour that would be unreasonable in any workplace.
15. Conveying food or drink to the mouth.	<p>(a) Cannot convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without receiving physical assistance from someone else;</p> <p>(b) Cannot convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without repeatedly stopping or experiencing breathlessness or severe discomfort;</p> <p>(c) Cannot convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without receiving regular prompting given by someone else in the claimant's physical presence; or</p> <p>(d) Owing to a severe disorder of mood or behaviour, fails to convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without receiving:</p> <p>(i) physical assistance from someone else; or</p> <p>(ii) regular prompting given by someone else in the claimant's presence.</p>
16. Chewing or swallowing food or drink.	(c) Cannot chew or swallow food or drink without repeatedly receiving regular prompting given by someone else in the

	<p>claimant's presence; or</p> <p>(d) Owing to a severe disorder of mood or behaviour, fails to:</p> <p>(i) chew or swallow food or drink; or</p> <p>(ii) chew or swallow food or drink without regular prompting given by someone else in the claimant's presence.</p>
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