



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# After you apply for **New Style Employment and Support Allowance**

**Easy  
Read**



# Contents

1



## Introduction

Page 3

2



## Work Capability Assessment

Page 5

3



## What happens at the assessment

Page 9

4



## ESA groups

Page 11

# 1

## Introduction



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

New Style Employment and Support Allowance is a benefit from the Department for Work and Pensions.

New style  
**ESA**

It is sometimes known as  
**New Style ESA.**



If you have an illness, health condition or disability, which means you cannot work, you may be able to get New Style ESA.



After you apply for New Style ESA, you may need to take part in a Work Capability Assessment.

New style  
**ESA** ✓

If you qualify after your assessment, you will be placed into an ESA group.



This information will tell you:

- What a Work Capability Assessment is
- About the ESA groups.

For more Easy Read information on New Style ESA, go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Search for **Easy Read New Style ESA**.

# 2

## Work Capability Assessment



After you have applied for New Style ESA, you will usually need to fill in a questionnaire.

We call this a '**Capability for work questionnaire**'.



You will get a letter with your questionnaire, telling you what to do.



If you live in Northern Ireland, the questionnaire will be different.



Send us your completed questionnaire.

We will use this to decide what happens next.



You may need to have an assessment, either face-to-face or by telephone or video.



Your assessment is to find out how your illness, health condition or disability affects you working.

## Some people may not need an assessment if:

A red stamp with the word "IMPORTANT" in bold, white, uppercase letters, tilted slightly to the right. The stamp has a distressed, ink-like texture and a double red border.

- You are nearing the end of your life and are likely to have 12 months or less to live.

The logo for Universal Credit, featuring the letters "UC" in a large, blue, sans-serif font, followed by the words "Universal Credit" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

- You get Universal Credit and have already completed an assessment.

A black rectangular icon with the word "Recording..." written in white, slanted text. Below the text is a red circular microphone icon with a white microphone symbol inside.

If you are asked to have an assessment, you can ask for it to be recorded.



If you would like your assessment to be recorded, tell the **Health Assessment Advisory Service** as soon as possible.



Their contact details will be in the appointment letter.



# 3

## What happens at the assessment



**IMPORTANT**

If you are asked to have a Work Capability Assessment, you must attend.



The assessment can either be:

- In person at an assessment centre
- By video call
- Over the telephone.



You can have someone else with you during your assessment. That person could be a:

- Carer
- Support worker
- Friend or family friend
- Appointee.

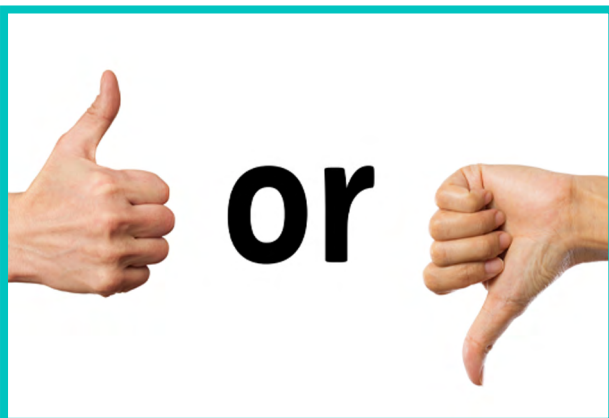
For more information about attending an assessment, go to [www.gov.uk/government/publications/attending-a-face-to-face-health-assessment-during-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/attending-a-face-to-face-health-assessment-during-covid-19)



Please tell the Health Assessment Advisory Service as soon as possible if you would like to bring someone else to your appointment.



During the assessment, you will be asked questions about your health condition or disability.



Your answers will help us decide:

- If you can or cannot get New Style ESA
- What ESA group you should be in (if you can get it).

# 4

## ESA groups



If your New Style ESA claim is successful, you are placed into a group.

The group will either be:

- A work-related activity group
- A support group.

### Work-related activity group



You will be in the work-related activity group if you cannot work now, but can start preparing to work sometime in the future.



You will have regular interviews with a work coach at your local Jobcentre Plus office.



Your work coach will help you:

- Improve your skills
- Prepare you for going back to work.



This could include training or how to write a CV.



You need to attend these interviews, or your benefit payment may be reduced.

This reduction is called a **sanction**.

For more information on sanctions, go to [www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance#if-you-get-a-sanction](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance#if-you-get-a-sanction)

## Support group



You will be in the support group if your disability or health condition severely limits your ability to work.

You will not have to start preparing for work in the future.



You will also not have:

- Regular interviews with a work coach unless you ask for them
- Training courses unless you want to.

For more information about New Style ESA, go to [www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance)