

Carers Allowance

Introduction

Carers Allowance is a benefit you might be entitled to if you care for someone for more than 35 hours per week. Submitting an application is very straightforward and will determine your eligibility.

Do I qualify for Carers Allowance?

If you care for someone for at least 35 hours a week and they receive certain benefits you may be entitled to receive Carers Allowance, which is currently £67.60 per week. You don't have to be living with or related to the person you care for. If you are eligible to claim Carers Allowance you will automatically get National Insurance credits too.

Not all carers qualify for this benefit. You may be eligible if you meet all the following conditions:

You look after someone that gets a qualifying disability benefit

You look after that person for at least 35 hours a week

You are aged 16 or over

You are not in full-time education

You don't earn over £128 a week (after deductions)

You satisfy UK residence and presence conditions

The 'qualifying disability benefits' condition includes:

Personal Independence Payment

Disability Living Allowance- the middle or highest rate

Attendance Allowance

Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with the Industrial Injuries or War Pensions schemes

Armed Forces Independence Payment

www.metabolicsupportuk.org

Metabolic Support UK, 5 Hilliards Court, Sandpiper Way, Chester Business Park, Chester, CH4 9QP, Tel: 0845 241 2173 / 0800 652

3181 Email: contact@metabolicsupportuk.org

Executive Director: Lindsay Weaver

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These requirements are explained in more detail here-

https://www.carersuk.org/images/Factsheets/2021-22_factsheets/Carers_Allowance_2021-22_April.pdf

Deductions on income-

You must not earn over £128 a week in order to meet the conditions of eligibility. This is after deductions; work related expenses can include-

50% of your pension contributions

Equipment or clothing you need to do your job

Travel costs that are not paid for by your employer

Business costs if you're self-employed

Costs of a carer to look after the disabled person or your children while you work

Further information on eligibility can be found here; <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/eligibility>

How will any benefits that I receive or that the person I care for receives be affected?

It is important to consider the effect that Carers Allowance may have on any other benefits that you or the person that you care for currently receive.

Receiving Carer's Allowance would mean the person you care for will usually stop getting a severe disability premium paid with their benefits, or an extra amount for severe disability paid with Pension Credit.

However, claiming Carers Allowance, in general, would mean that your total benefit payments will usually either go up or stay the same.

If you receive Working or Child Tax credits, you must contact HMRC to let them know about your claim.

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The overlapping benefit rules mean that sometimes you may qualify for two or more earnings replacements benefits but you cannot be paid more than one benefit at the same time. You cannot usually be paid Carer's Allowance if you receive one or more of the following benefits:

State Pension

Contributory Employment and Support Allowance

Incapacity Benefit

Maternity Allowance

Bereavement or widow's benefits

Severe Disablement Allowance

Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Using the benefits calculator will help you to work out which benefits may be affected;

<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>

Making the claim

When you are ready to make your claim, you will be asked for certain information. It will help you and will speed up the process if you have the following information to hand:

Your National Insurance number and your partners if applicable

Details of the account you would like your allowance to be paid into

Your latest payslip if you are employed

Your P45 if you've recently left a job

The name of your course and the college or university you attend, if you are a student

Details of any expenses you incur

You will also need information about the person you are caring for:

Full name

Address

Date of birth

Their National Insurance number if they are over the age of 16

Their Disability Living Allowance reference number if they're under the age of 16

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You can backdate your claim by up to three months. If your claim is successful you will receive £67.60 which is the current rate. If your claim is unsuccessful, you can ask for mandatory reconsideration. You can learn more about this process by following the link below, or from MSUK's 'Appealing a Benefit Decision Toolkit';

<https://www.gov.uk/mandatory-reconsideration>

Further Support

There are a number of support services that can help you with your claim such as your local branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau. Some Metabolic Clinics will have a family support worker who can also discuss your benefits with you. Other helpful information can be obtained by contacting the following organisations:

Turn to Us (online contact form available)

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/Carers/Carer-s-Allowance/>

Carers UK 0808 808 7777

<https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/financial-support/help-with-benefits/>

[GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

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The Money Advice Service 0800 138 7777

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/benefits-and-tax-credits-you-can-claim-as-a-carer>

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