

After 12 weeks...

- **Carer's Allowance** will stop after 12 weeks if you go into hospital. Your **carer premium** will stop 8 weeks after your **Carer's Allowance** stops.

If you are being treated for Covid-19, you can still get Carer's Allowance.

- **Child Benefit** is paid for the first 12 weeks if your child goes into hospital. After 12 weeks, you can continue to get Child Benefit only if you are regularly spending money on the child's behalf (eg. on clothing, pocket money, magazines). The rules are the same for **Guardian's Allowance**.

After 13 weeks...

If you are getting **Jobseeker's Allowance** when you go into hospital, you can be treated as meeting your **Claimant Commitment** for 13 continuous weeks in any 12-month period.

After 26 weeks...

If you go into hospital, your **Universal Credit (UC)** is not affected but it can be reduced if your **partner** goes into hospital for **more than six months**. In this case, you will need to **claim as a single person**.

If **one of your children** or a qualifying young person goes into hospital, your UC award will be reduced if they stay in hospital for **more than six months**.

If the **person you are caring for** goes into hospital, you lose the **carer element** of UC once you no longer meet the conditions for Carer's Allowance.

After 52 weeks...

Housing Benefit is paid for up to 52 weeks as long as the other conditions of entitlement are met.

ESA, Income Support and Pension Credit

After 52 weeks you will lose the **enhanced disability premium** unless you have a **partner who also qualifies** for the premium. You will also lose your ESA **work-related activity** or **support component**.

If you are **one of a couple** and have been in hospital for 52 weeks, you and your partner may be treated as **separate claimants**. They should get advice about which benefits to claim.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our **Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848**



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system
www.snsCab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: search for **Potteries Gold**

© April 2023



PotteriesGold

Benefit changes if you are... Going into Hospital

Benefits and Health no. 8



Going into Hospital?

If you have to stay in hospital for **more than four weeks**, some of your benefits might change. This leaflet explains how.

Who counts as a patient?

You count as a patient if you are being **maintained free of charge** while undergoing medical or other treatment in a **hospital or similar institution**.

Your treatment must be **funded by the NHS**, or the hospital must be maintained and administered by the **Defence Council**.

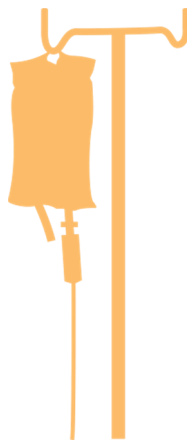
What counts as a Hospital?

Hospital includes all **NHS hospitals**, **armed forces hospitals** and **special hospitals**, but not prison hospital wings.

Similar institutions can include **care homes**, **hospices** and **rehabilitation units** that provide medical or nursing care.

Medical or other treatment is treatment by a doctor, dentist or professionally qualified or trained nurse, or someone under the supervision of such a person.

You **do not count as a patient** if you are a **private patient**, you are meeting the cost of your treatment in a **private hospital** or your placement is **funded by a local authority**.



What is a 'day in hospital'?

Because the length of time you spend in hospital matters, you need to know how the day you go into hospital and the day you come out are treated.

For **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**, **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** and **Attendance Allowance** both the **day you are admitted** and the **day you are discharged** count as days **out of hospital**.

For **all other benefits** the **day you are admitted** is treated as a day **out of hospital** and the **day you are discharged** is treated as a day **in hospital**.

Benefits when you are in Hospital

After 4 weeks...

- **Attendance Allowance** - stops after a total of four weeks, either in one stay, or several stays, where the gaps between stays are no more than four weeks each time)
- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for Adults** stops after a total of four weeks (as above).
- **DLA for Children** is *not affected* by hospital stays. As long as your child meets the conditions for this benefit, you can get DLA for them no matter how long they are in hospital.



- **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** stops after a total of four weeks, either in one stay or several stays. If you claim PIP when you are in hospital, it cannot be paid until you leave.
- **Carer's Allowance** usually stops if a person you are caring for goes into hospital, when their **Attendance Allowance**, **DLA care component** or **PIP daily living component** stops. However, if they are being treated for **Covid-19**, you can still get Carer's Allowance.
- **Industrial Injuries Benefits Constant Attendance Allowance** stops after four weeks. Other industrial injuries benefits are not affected.
- **War Pensions** may be increased if you go into hospital, if the treatment is for a war injury, but **Constant Attendance Allowance** and **War Pensioners' Severe Disablement Occupational Allowance** stop after 4 weeks.

ESA, Income Support, Pension Credit and Housing Benefit

Your **severe disability premium** will stop after four weeks if you are in hospital and you lose your **Attendance Allowance**, **DLA care component** or **PIP daily living component**.

If you have a **partner** who is not in hospital and who also qualifies for the **severe disability premium**, they will continue to receive it.