



the brain injury
association

Welfare Benefits Checklist

Claiming benefits can be a confusing process. There are different types of benefits available and these can affect other benefits that you may be receiving. The forms to fill out are lengthy, and it can be difficult to explain the effects of a brain injury on them. Below are the different types of benefits that you may be able to claim.

Means-tested benefits

These benefits are based on your current income, and any savings that you may have:

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension credit
- Housing benefit
- Council tax benefit

Non means-tested benefits

The benefits are based on the National Insurance (NI) contributions that you may have made:

- Contributions-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Statutory sick pay (if employed immediately before your brain injury)

Benefits on assessment of your disability

With these benefits, the level of support you are entitled to depends on the extent of your disabilities:

- Disability living allowance
- Motability
- Attendance allowance
- Council tax exemption
- Industrial injuries disablement benefit
- Constant attendance allowance
- War disablement allowance

Benefits and employment

If you are considered capable to work, or are currently working, there are still some benefits that you may be able to claim:

- Disability living allowance
- Working tax credits
- Child tax credits
- Reduced earnings allowance

Benefits if you need a carer

If you need a carer to look after you, you may be able to claim:

- Direct payments
- Independent living fund

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Benefits if you are a carer

If you are a carer over the age of 16 and spend more than 35 hours a week caring for someone who is getting, or waiting to hear about, Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Constant Attendance Allowance, you will be able to claim:

- Carers' Allowance

Benefits when dealing with death

You may be able to claim benefits in the event of death:

- Funeral expenses
- Bereavement benefits

Further Information

In order to find out exactly what financial support you are entitled to the best place to start is your local Jobcentre Plus. The following are also important sources of information:

- A local Citizens Advice Bureau – there should be details in your local phone-book or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- A Local Authority Welfare Rights Service. (Some Councils have such a Service, based in either the Social Services or Chief Executive's Departments). Details should be contained in your local phone-book
- The government website www.direct.gov.uk
- The Jobcentre Plus website at www.jobcentreprus.gov.uk
- The Benefits Enquiry Line on 0800 88 22 00
- Disability Alliance produce a wide range of freely downloadable factsheets at www.disabilityalliance.org and also produce *Disability Rights Handbook*, which is updated annually and is available to buy from the website
- Some local Headway Groups and Branches

To discuss any issues raised in this factsheet, or to find details of our local Groups and Branches, please contact the Headway helpline free of charge on 0808 800 2244, or by email at helpline@headway.org.uk. You can also find more information and contact details of Groups and Branches on our website at www.headway.org.uk.

For a full list of Headway booklets, or to order copies, call 0115 924 0800 or visit www.headway.org.uk.

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