

# Claiming Attendance Allowance

## Tips for claiming Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is non means tested and not taxable and can be paid to someone whether they have a carer or not.

It is not about what is wrong with you but what help you need, you do not have to have a medical diagnosis to be entitled to Attendance Allowance.

**Remember – You can receive Attendance Allowance if you are paying for your own care in a care home.**

To claim Attendance Allowance you will have to complete a form, it is fairly simple but quite a lengthy (28 pages) application. If the DWP needs any further information they can ask for it or if you wish to send additional evidence of a disability or illness you can but keep it brief and relevant to personal care and supervision needs.

Housekeeping, driving, gardening are not personal care or supervision needs.

It can be paid at one of two rates; Lower or Higher, this depends on when you need the help day and/or night not how bad you are.

You have to have had these needs for at least 6 months and expect to have them for at least 6 more months – this is about a long term disability or illness.

**Tip – Think about an upgrade if the lower rate is in place and there has been an additional need for 6 months or more.**

Special Rules apply for someone with a short life expectancy, ask the GP to complete a DS1500, the qualifying period does not apply for these circumstances.

Appeal Rights – You have the right to appeal a benefit decision. If you would like to ask that they look at the claim again within 1 month of the date at the top of the letter.

Have a look at our FAQ's and/or ask our expert if you have a question about this or any other benefits.

For more information on Attendance Allowance please call 0845 605 6055

