

you successfully claim D.L.A. for your child, you should qualify for the relevant disability premiums used in calculating entitlements to these benefits (e.g. disability premium, disabled child premium). This should lead to higher payments. Carer's Allowance is a benefit for people aged 16 or over who spend 35 hours or more caring for a person getting D.L.A. (at the middle or highest for personal care). Carer's Allowance is payable at roughly £53.90 per week. This is reduced by the amount of certain other benefits that you receive.

There is now a free Disability Benefits Enquiry line, tel; 0800 882 200 Open Monday-Friday 8.30am-6.00pm and Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm. There is also a DLA Helpline, tel; 08457 123456 open Monday-Friday 7.30am-6.30pm.

For further information please contact your local DWP office or Citizens Advice Bureau. *N.B. Adults can apply for D.L.A.*

The Family Fund Trust - www.familyfundtrust.org.uk

The Family Fund is an independent charity and largely financed by the Government to ease the stress on families who care for very severely disabled children under 16 at home by providing grants. These grants may be for holidays or other leisure activities, washing machines or tumble dryers, (to help to care for bedding or clothing) or replacing clothing and bedding that gets extra wear and tear. Grants may also pay for driving lessons for parents or carers or play equipment in relation to special needs. Contact Family Fund, 4 Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, York YO32 9WN. Tel 0845 130 4542. Grants are dependant on an income assessment and account is taken of savings.

Blue Badge Scheme/European Parking Card for People with Disabilities - www.direct.gov.uk

This offers parking conditions for people with disabilities (usually defined as these that have successfully claimed the mobility component of DLA). Approach your local council for further advice about the conditions (which must be completed).

N.B. Claiming Disability benefits for adults can mean different thresholds and criteria.

Contact a Family - www.cafamily.org.uk

Can help you fill your DLA application form. Call 0808 808 35555.



Claiming Disability Living Allowance for Children with Ichthyosis

Disability Living Allowance (D.L.A.) is for children and adults who need help to walk or with personal care or both.

It is not taxable, means tested nor dependant on National Insurance contributions and is usually payable on top of any earnings. It is paid in full and in addition to other social security benefits.

D.L.A. is divided into two parts, a "care component" and a "mobility component". A claimant may receive one or both components. DLA will not be paid before a child reaches the age of 3 months unless they are terminally ill, children under 3 years old are not entitled to the mobility component.

Before the first payment of D.L.A. can be made, the claimant's care or mobility needs must have been in existence for the previous three months and be expected to be present for at least a further six months. It is not necessary to wait for the three month qualifying period to be completed before making the claim.

Claimants are expected to be normally resident in the UK and not subject to immigration control.

The weekly rates of payment are (April 11);

Care Component (per week)		Mobility Component (per week)	
High Rate	£73.60	High Rate	£51.40
Middle Rate	£49.30	Low Rate	£19.55
Low Rate	£19.55		

Care Component

High Rate

To receive the highest rate of the care component the person claiming must fulfil both the daytime and night time conditions listed below.

Middle Rate

To receive the middle rate either the daytime or the night time conditions must be fulfilled.

Low Rate

To receive the low rate the claimant must require attention in connection with their bodily functions for a significant portion of the day.

Day Time

Requires frequent attention throughout the day in connection with bodily functions, or continual supervision throughout the day to avoid substantial danger to self or others.

Night Time

Requires prolonged or repeated attention in connection with bodily functions, or requires another person awake and watching over them for prolonged or frequent intervals.

Points to consider when applying for the care component:

- 1) It is vital to emphasise the number of times your child needs attention or supervision because of ichthyosis.
- 2) To have a chance of obtaining the middle or high rate, these needs must be spread throughout the day/night not just morning and evening.
- 3) Use the worst days as examples. When a question asks how long something takes or how often a problem occurs describe what happens on the worst days, (or during the worst periods). The form is trying to find out what your child's needs are and the assessor needs to know what help your child needs on the days when he/she is most severely affected by their condition.
- 4) All babies and children need frequent attention, in the D.L.A. application make sure you describe what your child needs in addition to that which an unaffected child would need of the same age.
- 5) Answer all the questions even if you feel you have answered this question in an earlier section of the form and you feel you are repeating information.
- 6) Write too much on the form, not too little.
- 7) Inform your G.P. and/or hospital specialist that you are applying for D.L.A. and list their support. They may be approached for information
- 8) If you are turned down or don't get the rate you expect get advice about an appeal.
Many people are only successful when they appeal. In the previous year 60% of appeals re D.L.A. have been successful.

Additional Points to Consider

- 1) How often does your child require creams to be applied to the skin? How long does each application take? What would happen if the skin care was not administered? e.g. skin would dry out, would be more likely to crack or develop fissures increasing the risk of infection.
- 2) How many baths are needed each day or relieve the condition? If your child is old enough to bath him/herself, is it still necessary for you to ensure that the skin is properly coated with emollients and that they do not slip when leaving the bath?
- 3) Do you need to clean the house more frequently because of your child's condition?
- 4) Is your child on a special diet? Does this mean that their meals require more planning/preparation?
- 5) How frequently does your child wake in the night as a result of their condition? What actions need to be taken (e.g. changing bedding, applying creams etc.) How long does it take to do this and to settle your child back to sleep again?
- 6) Is there any special equipment needed for your child's condition? e.g. air conditioning units, humidifier etc.
- 7) How often do you need to launder or replace sheets/clothing due to staining from ointments used to control the condition?

Mobility Component

Highest Rate

To fulfil conditions for the highest rate, a claimant must be unable to walk, virtually unable to walk or suffer exertion likely to cause danger or serious deterioration to health/life if they did walk.

Lowest Rate

The claimant is able to walk but needs someone to provide them with guidance or supervision for most of the time when outdoors in unfamiliar areas. Children under 16 must require substantially more guidance than other children of the same age in normal health.

The term "virtually unable to walk" is by considering the distance, speed and length of time a person can walk for and also the manner of walking and the degree of discomfort caused.

It may be possible to claim mobility allowance for your child if their mobility is restricted by tightness of skin or the soles of their feet are badly affected, or if they are constantly in a lot of pain.

D.L.A. can act as a gateway to additional types of financial help. For example, if you are in receipt of income support or housing benefit and