



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

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King Edward Street
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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

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

Our booklet 'Welfare benefits after a brain injury' explains all of the areas covered here in more detail. Your local Citizens Advice Bureau should be able to advise on benefits issues, and your nearest Headway Group or Branch may be able to help too. You could also try the Benefits Enquiry Line on 0800 882200, as they can answer your benefits questions and send you some of the forms that you will need.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues covered here, or any other aspects of brain injury, please call our free, confidential helpline on 0808 800 2244. Alternatively, you can email us on helpline@headway.org.uk.

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