

## Benefits Advice Note

### Personal Independence Payment

As a person with narcolepsy, you may be entitled to receive a number of government-funded benefits. One of the most relevant of these is called Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

#### *What is PIP?*

PIP is a type of benefit paid by the government to people who have a disability or serious health problem. It is for people aged 16 to 64, and is to help disabled people with the additional costs they incur as a result of their disability.

#### *Key points*

There are **two parts** to PIP:

- The "**Daily Living Part**", which is to help people with their day-to-day living; and
- The "**Mobility Part**", which is to help people get around.

You may be eligible for both parts of PIP. The standard amounts that are paid are currently £55.10 per week for the Daily Living Part and £21.80 per week for the Mobility Part. These payments are **tax-free** and are not affected by any other benefits that you receive.

#### *How do I get PIP?*

PIP is paid by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). If you feel you should be able to claim PIP, you need to **phone DWP** (0800 917 2222). You should be prepared to give them your personal details (full name, address, telephone number, National Insurance number, date and place of birth, and your bank details). They will also ask for details of the doctor responsible for treating your narcolepsy.

If DWP thinks that you may be eligible for PIP, they will send you a form that you must complete and return. You should **complete the form** as fully as you can, and you may send it back with a **covering letter** that explains how narcolepsy affects you. It is usually a good idea to ask a member of your family or someone else who knows you well, or someone with experience of applying for benefits (see *Let us help you* below), to help you write that letter.

Once DWP has received your application form, they will usually ask you to attend a **face-to-face meeting** where your needs will be assessed. You must go to that meeting; otherwise you will not receive PIP.

DWP will then decide whether you should be given PIP, and they will write to you to let you know the outcome. If they say no, you can **appeal** against that decision, and your application will then be reviewed by an independent assessor.

### *Find out more*

You can find details of PIP at the official government website: [www.gov.uk/pip](http://www.gov.uk/pip).

The charity Disability Rights UK publishes a detailed guide to making an application for PIP on its website: [www.disabilityrightsuk.org/personal-independence-payment-pip](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/personal-independence-payment-pip).

### *Let us help you*

Narcolepsy UK has an **excellent record** of helping people with narcolepsy obtain PIP.

The questions on the PIP application form and the scoring system that is used to assess someone's entitlement to PIP are in many ways not really appropriate to the issues faced by someone with narcolepsy. It is therefore critical that the answers are formulated carefully and that a covering letter is drafted in a way that maximises your chances of success.

We can help you to do this, but it is much easier for us to do so if you get in touch with us **before you apply**. If you leave it until after you have sent your application to DWP, for instance after they have told you that you will not be given PIP, it will be much harder for us to help you.

### *Contact us*

**Call** our helpline: 0345 450 0394

Or **email**: [info@narcolepsy.org.uk](mailto:info@narcolepsy.org.uk)

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this Note is accurate, it is for general guidance only. Specific advice on your individual circumstances should always be sought. Narcolepsy UK cannot accept any responsibility or liability for actions taken in reliance on the information contained in this Note.