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## Carer's Allowance after brain injury

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### Introduction

This factsheet has been written to offer information and guidance on the welfare benefit Carer's Allowance (CA).

Welfare benefits can be complicated and eligibility usually depends on personal circumstances, so this factsheet only offers general information on what the benefit is, the application process, tips for managing this with a brain injury, and what to do if you disagree with a decision.

If you need further detailed guidance or support with CA, there is a list of useful contacts at the end of this factsheet. Alternatively, visit [www.gov.uk/browse/benefits](http://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits).

### What is CA?

CA is a benefit for people who are carers.

Partners, family members or friends who are caring for a brain injury survivor may not think of themselves formally as 'carers', considering the 'care' they provide to simply be part of their relationship. Regardless, provided you fulfil the eligibility criteria, you can receive CA.

To be eligible, you need to be providing care for at least 35 hours a week. 'Care' includes helping someone with activities of daily living such as washing and cooking, helping with tasks such as shopping, or supervising the person to stay safe.

You must also be 16 or over, not be in full-time education or studying for more than 21 hours a week. You cannot get CA if your earnings after some expenses are more than £128 a week - this is known as the 'earnings limit'.

The survivor you are caring for must already be receiving either Personal Independence Payment (daily living component), Disability Living Allowance (middle or highest care rate) or Attendance Allowance. It is important to note that if you start receiving CA, certain elements of their or your benefits may be affected, so it is worth seeking specialist advice before making an application to discuss this. For further guidance, visit the government website at [www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/effect-on-other-benefits](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/effect-on-other-benefits) or contact the Carer's Allowance Unit – contact details are available at the end of this factsheet.

CA can only be received by one carer per person. Therefore, if someone else is also caring for the survivor, only one of you can claim CA.



## Applying for CA

You can apply for CA using an online form on the government's website at [www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim).

If you are unable to use the online form, you can apply by downloading and completing the Carer's Allowance claim form. This is also available online at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-allowance-claim-form](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-allowance-claim-form), or you can call the Carer's Allowance Unit if you have any difficulty with accessing it.

For the application, you will need some details from the brain injury survivor such as dates of their injury, any treatment they have had and personal details such as their national insurance number. It may therefore be useful to complete the form together.

## After you apply

If you are considered to be eligible for CA, you will receive £67.60 per week (rate at the time of writing), and it is usually paid every four weeks.

If the person you are caring for goes into hospital for longer than four weeks, your payment of CA may stop depending on how their own benefits are affected by their hospital stay.

If you yourself go into hospital, you will continue to receive CA for up to 12 weeks, providing you were still caring for the brain injury survivor for 35 hours, for at least 14 of the past 26 weeks.

You will continue to receive CA if you take a break from caring for up to four weeks every 26 weeks, providing you were still caring for the brain injury survivor for 35 hours, for 22 of the 26 weeks. More information on taking a break from caring, and general guidance on this topic, is available in the booklet [Caring for someone after a brain injury](#).

If it is decided that you are not eligible for CA and you disagree with this, you can ask for a mandatory reconsideration. Further guidance on this is available in the factsheet *Appealing a welfare benefits decision*.



## Useful contacts

- **Carers Allowance Unit**  
Telephone: 0800 731 0297  
Textphone: 0800 731 0317  
Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 731 0297  
Address: Mail Handling Site A,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV98 2AB  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)
- **Carers UK Helpline**  
0808 808 7777  
advice@carersuk.org  
[www.carersuk.org](http://www.carersuk.org)
- **Citizens Advice**  
Adviceline (England): 0800 144 8848  
Advicelink (Wales): 0800 702 2020  
Relay UK - if you can't hear or speak on the phone, you can type what you want to say: 18001 then 0800 144 8884  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)
- **Turn2Us** helpline: 0808 802 2000  
[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

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