

## Attendance Allowance

Factsheet 501 – 18 April 2011 (1 page)

### What is Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for people over the age of 65 who are ill or disabled and need help with their personal care, supervision or who need someone watching over them because of physical or mental illness or disability.

### How much is the allowance?

Attendance Allowance is paid at one of two weekly rates, which from April 2011 to April 2012 are:

Higher rate £73.60

Lower rate £49.30

The lower rate is usually paid if help is needed during the day or at night; and the higher rate is paid if you have care needs during the day and at night.

### 'But no one attends to me, I manage on my own'

The allowance is based on **the help that you need - not the help you actually get.**

### 'Oh yes, but I do really manage'

Yes, but how you manage is the important question. Think about the difficulties you have carrying out everyday personal tasks such as getting in and out of bed, bathing, or toileting.

**If you manage to do things but find it difficult or struggle, or maybe it takes a long time - you may be eligible for this allowance.**

### 'I live on my own, besides which, I really don't want anyone coming in to attend to me'

It really doesn't matter if you live on your own or with someone else. You don't have to use the allowance to pay for someone to help care for you. **How you choose to spend the allowance is entirely up to you.**

### 'I would not qualify as I have a private pension and some savings'

Attendance Allowance is **not means tested**, so you won't have to give any details of your income or savings. It is paid on top of any other social security benefits apart from DLA. In fact for people receiving Pension Credit or council tax/housing benefit, if awarded, **Attendance Allowance might mean you could receive higher amounts.**

Other people may start to be entitled to one of these benefits.

**See also:** FS 502 **Completing an Attendance Allowance Form**

If you have any further questions or would like to request an application form please contact Care Direct 0845 155 1007. **All information received will be treated as confidential.**

A large print version of this factsheet is available on [www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets](http://www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets) but if you would like it in a different format such as Braille or audio, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email: [customer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:customer@devon.gov.uk)