

**INFORMATION FOR CARERS OF
PEOPLE WHO ARE FORGETFUL OR
CONFUSED**

April 2009

FINANCIAL

Attendance Allowance

A benefit paid to people who need help with personal care. This includes help with personal hygiene, supervising someone getting dressed, giving medication or needing someone to keep an eye on them. It is non means tested and is paid to the person with dementia. It is paid at two rates; the higher rate is awarded if the person needs attention during the night. From April 2009 the lower rate will be £47.10 and the higher rate £70.35 per week. Attendance Allowance Forms are available by phoning 0845 712 3456, or free phone 0800 882200. Successful claims are backdated to date of call. It is often easier to get through in the late afternoon.

Disability Living Allowance

A benefit paid to people who need help either with personal care or with mobility or both. It is not means tested and is applicable to people **under the age of 65**. When the person with dementia reaches 65 they still stay on this, and do not change over to Attendance Allowance. The Higher rate from April 2009 will be £70.35, the middle rates £47.10 and the lower rate £18.65. There may also be a mobility component of £49.10 or £18.65. Application forms are available by phoning 0845 712 3456 or free phone 0800 882200. Successful claims are backdated to date of call. It is often easier to get through in the late afternoon.

Incapacity benefit

This benefit may be claimed if someone under retirement age is unable to work because of an illness or disability and is not entitled to statutory sick pay. They must have paid sufficient national insurance contributions.

Council Tax reduction (not means tested)

If a person with dementia receives either attendance allowance or disability living allowance they are exempt from paying council tax. Therefore if only two people live in a house the council tax should be reduced by 25%. If the person lives alone they are exempt from paying council tax. To claim this, telephone the local Council Tax Department and ask for a form for mental impairment. Proof of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance must be provided. Some carers are not counted for council tax if they are living with and caring for a person with dementia who is on the higher rate of attendance allowance or disability living allowance and is not their partner for instance a daughter caring for her mother.

Severe Disability Premium

If a person with dementia lives alone, receives Attendance Allowance and also receives pension credit, and nobody claims Invalid Care Allowance for looking after them, they are entitled to this premium. Contact your local Dept of Work and Pensions or the benefits helpline 08457 123456.

Carer's Allowance

A benefit paid to the carer of someone in receipt of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance. The carer must **spend over 35 hours per week caring for someone, and have an earned income of less than £95 per week, once allowable expenses are deducted.** For each complete tax year that C.A. is paid, you will automatically build up a State Second Pension. Because Carer's Allowance is an 'earnings replacement benefit' you cannot receive it if you are already in receipt of another 'earnings replacement benefit' ie: Incapacity Benefit, State Retirement Pension etc. which is more than the Carer's Allowance. However if you meet the other requirements it might still be worth you making a claim as this may entitle you to a carer premium on income support, also a National Insurance contribution may be added to your NI record. In some cases the person being cared for may lose some of their benefits, so it is important to receive advice before making a claim. Carer's Allowance from April 2009 is £53.10 per week. Tel: 01253 856123 or 0800 882200.

Home Responsibilities Protection

This is not a benefit but a scheme that helps protect your state pension. You may be able to get HRP if you do not work or your earnings are below a certain level. You must spend 35 hours or more a week caring for someone who receives attendance allowance or disability living allowance. 0845 73021479.

Appointee ship

It may be possible to arrange to have a person's pension, or benefits made out to the carer when there is a good reason for this. This can be arranged through the Dept. of Work and Pensions (Formerly DSS)

Direct Payments

Direct payments are cash payments given by local authority social service departments to individuals who need community care services. A person must have been assessed as needing services to receive a direct payment, and the payment must be used to purchase the services that the person is assessed as needing. Payments may be made to carers and to people with dementia. Any person who receives direct payments must be willing and able to manage them alone or with assistance. A person with dementia or a carer can request a direct payment by contacting their social services department and asking for an assessment. The person receiving the direct payment must be assessed as needing the financial help, as they would be if applying for social services provided care, however for example if a married woman did not have money in her own right she may be eligible.

LEGAL

Enduring Power of Attorney and Lasting Power of Attorney

Lasting Power of attorney:

From October 1st 2007 people 18 and over will be able to choose and appoint someone to make their health, welfare and/or financial decisions if in the future they lack capacity to make these decisions for themselves. This person is called an attorney and is appointed by a formal document called a Lasting Power of Attorney(LPA).

There are two different types of LPA:

- A personal welfare LPA is for decisions about both health and personal welfare, such as where to live, day-to-day care or having medical treatment.
- A property and affairs LPA is for decisions about finances, such as selling the donor's house or managing their bank account.

The person making an LPA is called the donor, and they have many choices when making the LPA.

LPA's can be made through a solicitor, or a special form can be obtained from the Office of the Public Guardian, or stationers that provide legal packs. The form will have guidance on how to complete it and will also explain how the donor can place limits on what the attorney can do.

A certificate will have to be signed to say that the donor understood what they were doing when signing the form and that there was no fraud or undue pressure on them when the LPA was being created.

Before an LPA can be used, it must be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian . There is a fee for registration.

Enduring Power of attorney

From October 1st 2007 people can no longer make an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) however existing EPAs will still be valid and can be registered after this date. If the EPA has not been registered because the donor is still able to make their own decisions, the donor can:

- Destroy the EPA and make a finance and property LPA
- Keep the EPA for finance decisions
- In either case make a separate LPA for welfare decisions if they wish to.

If a donor decides to keep the EPA for their finance decisions the attorney can continue to use it unregistered unless it has been specified that it is only to be used if they no longer have capacity. If at some future date they are no longer able to make financial decisions for themselves then the attorney will need to register the EPA at that time.

For further information and help please phone the helpline on 020 7664 7328

Driving

There is a responsibility for people with dementia (or their carer) to inform the DVLA of their diagnosis. The address is Drivers Medical Unit, D6, DVLA, Longview Road, Swansea SA99 1TU. Tel: 0870 600 0301. If they refuse, a medical practitioner may inform the DVLA directly. The driving insurance company should also be informed of the diagnosis.

It is usually possible for the Medical Advisory Branch of the DVLA to decide whether they should be allowed to continue driving from the information provided. It may be necessary for them to take a free driving test conducted by the Driving Standards Agency. It may be possible to issue yearly licences, renewed in consultation with the medical practitioner

Key for disabled toilets

Useful when taking a person with dementia out, and the carer is a different sex and therefore cannot go into the toilet with them. Obtainable from RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Rd. EC1V 8AF Price £3.50 Tel: 020 7250 3222

Wheelchairs

If a wheelchair is considered necessary they can be obtained from your GP Practice.

Incontinence Pads

Contact the District Nurse Service for assessment of requirements.

Catalogue

A catalogue is available for people with dementia, carers, and residential homes, which has a wide range of helping aids at value prices including

items such as games, cutlery, alarms to prompt taking medication, talking clocks etc. It can be obtained from www.nrs-uk.co.uk or 0845 1218111

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

VOLUNTARY AND STATUTORY

Admiral Nursing DIRECT

Admiral Nursing DIRECT is a direct access telephone information and support service for family carers, people with dementia and professionals. It is staffed by experienced Admiral Nurses. Admiral Nurses are dementia specialist mental health nurses who work, in the community and other settings, with families affected by dementia. Admiral Nursing Direct is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11.00 am and 9.00 pm . Callers at other times are encouraged to leave a message and an Admiral Nurse will make contact.

Admiral Nursing DIRECT 0845 257 9406 or
direct@fordementia.org.uk

Social Services

Will assess the needs of people with dementia and their carers. The NICE guidelines state that 'health and social care managers should ensure that the rights of carers to receive an assessment of their needs are upheld.' Therefore carers should request a carer's assessment. Social Services can provide a package of care such as personal care, respite care, meals on wheels and Day Care. Telephone your local Social Service Department.

Alzheimer's Society

Provide support to people with all types of dementia and their carers. They provide Day Care, Support Services, Carers Groups, social events, advice and help with claiming benefits. If you wish to join, you will receive a monthly newsletter, with articles about research and developments and interesting tips from other carers. Please telephone 020 7423 3500 or the helpline 0845 300 0336 for details of your local branch.

Carers UK

Provide national and local information.
0808 808 7777
20-25 Glasshouse Yard,
London EC1A 4JT

The Relatives and Residents Association (R&RA)

The R&RA have a helpline for carers of people who have moved into care homes. They also publish a newsletter. Tel: 020 7359 8136 or email on info@relres.org

The Cinnamon Trust

A national charity which offers help to elderly people and their pets 01736 757900

Frozen Meals Service

Frozen meals can be obtained from Wiltshire Farm Foods 0800 773773 or there are many other suppliers advertising on the internet.

Age Concern

Provide information and advice, subsidised holidays, competitive insurance, legal/financial advice and cheaper wills. They also provide some Day Care, and run Carers groups. In some areas a bathing service is provided

Tel: 0800 00 99 66 for information and advice or details of your local branch.

Crossroads

Crossroads enables you to have a short break from your caring role by providing a trained carer support worker in the home. This is free service to carers in some areas. In other areas there is a small charge. Tel: 0845 4500350 for details of your local branch.

Samaritans

Provides a 24-hour listening service for anyone feeling life is not worth living, and feeling they would like to talk to someone. 08457 909090.

HOLIDAYS

VITALISE

Organises special holiday weeks for people with dementia and their carers. Volunteers are on hand to help with caring and allow carers to have a break. For more information contact: Vitalise, Shap Rd. Industrial Estate, Shap Rd., Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6NZ Tel: 0845 34519702

OTHER INFORMATION

Medic Alert

Sells identity bracelets/pendants that can be worn by anybody suffering from a chronic illness. As well as displaying the wearer's name the pendant holds a code which allows authorities such as the police or a hospital to access the wearers Medic Alert file and gain information regarding his/her medical condition. The name and addresses of carers, relatives and friends are also held on the computer. Tel: 0800 581420.

Counsel and Care

Provides good information and advice about choosing a residential nursing home. 0845 300 7585

Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC) Housing Care

An independent charity providing detailed information and advice on all types of specialist accommodation for older people Tel: 020 7820 1343 or visit www.housingcare.org

Free eye test in your own home

For all those who cannot visit an optician unattended, including people with dementia Tel: 0500 295 245

Blue Badge Scheme

If the person you care for has serious mobility problems or is unsafe to walk independently because they are confused, they may be able to get a special permit for easier public parking. Telephone your local Council Offices for details. A support letter from your Admiral Nurse or Doctor may help.

Staying Put

Enables people to remain in their own homes by helping them to repair, improve or adapt their homes. They also help with benefits and apply for grants to have work done. Telephone your local Council for details.

Lifeline

Many carers feel safer having a portable alarm that can be worn and is linked to a 24 hr telephone control centre. If help is needed, such as the carer feels very ill the control centre can be contacted and they will contact help. Telephone your local Council for details.

Carer's Card

It important for carers to carry a card explaining that they have someone with dementia at home, and that should they be taken ill, or have an accident, help needs to be sent to look after the person with dementia.

USEFUL WEBSITES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Financial Advice

The Society of Later Life Advisers (SOLLA) is a not for profit organisation which provides financial advice for older people, and their families and their carers. SOLLA assists people to find quality and trusted financial advisers involved in the older client market. To find a SOLLA accredited adviser near you, visit the website at www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk

Care Quality Commission has lists of registered care agencies at www.cski.org.uk

United Kingdom Homecare Assoc. www.ukhca.co.uk

Adapted housing for people with disabilities. Contact Foundations at www.foundations.uk.com

Directory of care homes Care choices 01223 207770 or www.caredirections.co.uk

Independent website is a ratings and information resource based on how others rated a facility www.whereforcare.co.uk

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