

# Personal Independence Payment (PIP) update

To get standard rate for both care and mobility, you need to score a minimum of 8 points. To get the enhanced rate for both care and mobility, you need to score 12 points.

When answering the questions, tick the box that best describes your ability to carry out the activity most of the time (more than 50%); even if you think more than one of the descriptors apply to you and you tick more than one box, you will only receive one set of points per activity on assessment. Therefore, you should use this box to explain in detail how your condition affects your ability to carry out each task and relate it to the descriptors where possible.

Most people will also be seen for a face-to-face assessment in which you can explain this further.

## How to view descriptors

For a descriptor to apply to a claimant, the claimant must be able to reliably complete the activity as described in the descriptor. Reliably means whether they can do so:

- ① Safely – in a manner unlikely to cause harm to themselves or to another person, either during or after completion of the activity;
- ② To an acceptable standard;
- ③ Repeatedly – as often as is reasonably required; and
- ④ In a reasonable time period – no more than twice as long as the maximum period that a non-disabled person would normally take to complete that activity.

## Rules

A scoring descriptor can apply to claimants in an activity in which their impairment(s) affects their ability to complete an activity, at some stage of the day, on more than 50% of days in the

## Examples of activity descriptors

### Taking nutrition

- Ⓐ Can take nutrition unaided (0 points)
- Ⓑ Needs (2 points):
  - i. to use an aid or appliance to be able to take nutrition;  
or
  - ii. supervision to be able to take nutrition;  
or
  - iii. assistance to be able to cut up food
- Ⓒ Needs a therapeutic source to be able to take nutrition (2 points)
- Ⓓ Needs prompting to be able to take nutrition (4 points)
- Ⓔ Needs assistance to be able to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition (6 points)
- Ⓕ Cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so (10 points)

*For example, a claimant with severe mouth ulcers may physically be able to prepare food and feed him/herself, but due to severe pain and discomfort caused by eating and drinking at these times may need prompting from another person to carry out the task (could be assessed at 4 points).*

### Moving around

- Ⓐ Can stand and then move more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided (0 points)
- Ⓑ Can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided (4 points)
- Ⓒ Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres (8 points)
- Ⓓ Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres (10 points)
- Ⓔ Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres either aided or unaided (12 points)
- Ⓕ Cannot, either aided or unaided, stand or move more than 1 metre (12 points)

12-month period. The following rules apply:

- ① If one descriptor in an activity is likely to apply on more than 50% of the days in the 12-month period, then that descriptor should be chosen.
- ② If more than one descriptor in an activity is likely to apply on more than 50% of the days in the period, then the descriptor chosen should be the one which is the highest scoring. For example, if D applies on 100% of days and E on 70% of days, E is selected.

The impact of most health conditions and disabilities can fluctuate, and Behçet's disease would fit into this category. It is suggested therefore that taking a view of

ability over a longer period of time helps to iron out fluctuations and presents a more coherent picture of disabling effects. The descriptor choice should be based on consideration over a 12-month period.

I hope this information gives a clearer picture as to what to expect with regard to the application and assessment process.

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*If you want to see all the directives and examples you can find them at [www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/PIP-toolkit/about-PIP/](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/PIP-toolkit/about-PIP/) under Assessment criteria published April 2013.*