Attendance Allowance

Financial Support For Older People With Care Or Supervision Needs

PODPLAN

England and Wales · Rates for 2026/27

Higher Rate

£114.60/ week

Qualifying needs during both day and night, or eligibility under special end-of-life rules.

Lower Rate

£76.70/ week

Frequent help or continual supervision by day, or qualifying help or supervision at night.

Annual Higher Rate

£5,959/ year

Tax free, paid directly into bank account.

Not automatic

You need to apply

You can claim online or by post. You do not need a carer already helping you.

What you need to know before anything else

What it does

Pays regardless of savings or income
Completely non-means-tested - a millionaire and someone with nothing are equally eligible.

Pays even if no formal care is in place
You do not need a social worker, a care package, or any council involvement to claim.

Paid on top of State Pension
Does not reduce the pension or most other benefits in fact it can increase some.

Is completely tax-free
Attendance Allowance is not taxable income and does not need to be included in your tax return.

Can be spent on anything
Despite the name, there is no requirement to spend it on care.

What it requires

State Pension age or over
Your State Pension age depends on your date of birth. Check it on GOV.UK. You cannot receive Attendance Allowance alongside PIP or DLA.

A physical or mental health condition
No fixed list of qualifying conditions, assessed on impact to daily living, not diagnosis.

Need for help or supervision
Help with personal care or supervision to stay safe, during the day, night or both. You can qualify even if nobody provides that help. Mobility difficulties alone do not qualify.

Usually six months of qualifying needs
You normally need to have had these needs for six months. Special rules apply if a medical professional says you may have 12 months or less to live.

Care-home funding can affect payment
Payment usually stops after 28 days if the council pays towards your fees. Self-funders may continue receiving it. Tell DWP about any hospital or care-home stay so they can check your payments.

Conditions that may cause qualifying care or supervision needs- eligibility depends on their impact

01 Dementia or memory loss
02 Visual or hearing impairment
03 Heart disease or heart failure
04 Parkinson's disease
05 Diabetes with complications
06 COPD or breathing conditions
07 Arthritis or joint conditions
08 Cancer or terminal illness
09 Mental health conditions
10 Stroke-related disability
11 Falls risk or mobility issues
12 Any condition limiting daily life

© 2026 Lumen Later Life Living Pty Ltd. All rights reserved. Podplan® is a registered trademark.