

## MOTABILITY & PIP FACTSHEET

### **Q** What is PIP?

**A** PIP (Personal Independent Payment) started to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) from April 2013.

### **Q** If I get PIP do I qualify for a motability vehicle?

**A** Some people living with the effects of Thalidomide join the Motability Scheme – the charitable scheme allowing you to use your Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or PIP to lease a car, scooter or powered wheelchair. See our Motability Factsheet for more information.

You are only eligible to join the Motability Scheme if you get the Enhanced Rate (12 points or more), of the Mobility Component of PIP (or Higher Rate Mobility DLA). You must have at least 12 months' award length remaining.

### **Q** What happens when my DLA allowance ends?

**A** Since PIP started to replace DLA, some people have found that they do not pass the eligibility re-assessment for PIP within the mobility section, despite having received it for DLA. If you have an upper limb disability it is much harder to qualify for enhanced rate of Mobility under the PIP scheme than it was to qualify for High Rate Mobility under criteria, as the qualifiers have subtly changed.

Motability can only lease vehicles or chairs to people receiving the enhanced rate of PIP and are unable to continue or engage in a lease agreement, or assist with adaptations, for people who are not receiving this support. They have no mandate to support people using their own cars and can only help with vehicles leased from the Motability Scheme.

Motability has no influence over decisions made by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and no say in whether, or not, you qualify for PIP or DLA. If you decide to appeal against the discontinuation of your allowance it is a matter for you and the DWP to resolve. However, Motability is very keen to help with the effect these decisions have on your mobility needs and requirements and understand the upset this may have caused you.

The Health & Wellbeing team will do everything they can to help. They welcome your questions and will talk through all the possible options with you. They have helped many people through the process so contact them as soon as you find out that your allowance is stopping. WE also have trained beneficiary volunteers who can help you.

### **Q** What happens when my allowance ends?

**A** When your allowance ends, Motability will ask you to return your vehicle within 21 days of your allowance stopping. However, if you appeal your PIP decision, they will allow you to keep the car pending the decision of your appeal.

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### **Q What happens to my Motability car if I am unsuccessful with PIP?**

- A**
- Since April 2017, Motability has been offering an enhanced transitional support package for Scheme customers moving from DLA to PIP.
  - If you joined the Scheme before 2013 and return the car within eight weeks\*, £2,000 will be available. Alternatively, you can choose to keep the vehicle for 26 weeks\*, however in this case you will receive a reduced payment of £500.
  - If you joined the Scheme during 2013 and return the car within eight weeks\* a transitional support payment of £1,000 will be available. Alternatively, you can choose to keep the vehicle for 26 weeks\* and receive a reduced payments of £250.
  - If you joined the Scheme anytime from 1 January 2014, unfortunately you are not eligible for the Transition Support Payment as more information on PIP was available after this time. A standard £250 Return to Dealer payment will be available if the vehicle is returned within eight weeks\*.

\* All dates relate to the period starting from the day of the last DLA allowance payment.

### **Q What if I appeal against the decision about my allowance?**

- A** If you appeal successfully against the outcome of your PIP assessment, Motability may be able to place you back on the scheme.

It is not always possible, however, for them to reunite you with your original car as they are required to put vehicles which are returned to them back into the leasing system as quickly as possible.

If the reconsideration of your PIP claim is likely to be resolved within 3 weeks of you returning your car, Motability will ask you not to cash your reimbursement cheque until after the decision has been made.

If you receive PIP payments within 6 months of getting your Motability cheque, the charity will ask you for £1,700 back.

If your return to PIP takes 6 months or longer you may be able to keep your £2,000 Motability payment.

### **Q What if you buy your car**

- A** If you decide to buy your car once the decision about your allowance has been confirmed, the Motability Insurer, Royal Sun Alliance, will provide you with a letter explaining your no-claims status that you can then provide to the insurer of your choice.

If you've paid for adaptations to your car and decide not to buy it from Motability, you will either be refunded for the changes that you have made, or Motability will pay to have them removed and given back to you where appropriate.

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If your adaptations were provided free of charge or supported through funding from the Motability grants team, they will help you source and fit another set of adaptations onto a car of your choice. They will not transfer previously made adaptations from the Motability car.

### **Q What if I'm on an extended lease?**

**A** If you are coming to the end of a three year lease period, and your PIP eligibility is under assessment, Motability will advise you to keep the same car, chair or scooter until the allowance has been agreed. The reason for this is because, if your PIP isn't then awarded, your vehicle will be more affordable.

### **Q What happens if I'm in hospital and the mobility part of my PIP is suspended?**

**A** No one can predict when they might need a stay in hospital. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will not make PIP or DLA payments if you've been in hospital for 28 days or longer. Once you come out of hospital for 28 days or longer. Once you come out of hospital, the payments will start again. You need to tell the DWP as soon as you into hospital.

### **Q For further information**

**A** For further information on Motability visit the charity's website at [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

### **Further reading**

[www.motability.co.uk/how-it-works/allowances/pip](http://www.motability.co.uk/how-it-works/allowances/pip)

The contact us section gives you full details of where to enquire and answers common questions and concerns [www.motability.co.uk/get-support/contact](http://www.motability.co.uk/get-support/contact)

### **Support from the Trust**

To discuss Motability and PIP, ask questions or raise concerns call the Health & Wellbeing team on 01480 474074.