

Personal independence payment (PIP) assessment – daily living activities

Activity 1 – Preparing food	
a. Can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided.	0
b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal.	2
c. Cannot cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but is able to do so using a microwave.	2
d. Needs prompting to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal.	2
e. Needs supervision or assistance to either prepare or cook a simple meal.	4
f. Cannot prepare and cook food.	8
Activity 2 – Taking nutrition	
a. Can take nutrition unaided.	0
b. Needs – (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.	2
c. Needs a therapeutic source to be able to take nutrition.	2
d. Needs prompting to be able to take nutrition.	4
e. Needs assistance to be able to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition.	6
f. Cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so.	10
Activity 3 – Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition	
a. Either – (i) does not receive medication or therapy or need to monitor a health condition; or (ii) can manage medication or therapy or monitor a health condition unaided.	0
b. Needs any one or more of the following – (i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage medication; (ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage medication; (iii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to monitor a health condition.	1
c. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes no more than 3.5 hours a week.	2
d. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 3.5 but no more than 7 hours a week.	4
e. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 7 but no more than 14 hours a week.	6
f. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours a week.	8
Activity 4 – Washing and bathing	
a. Can wash and bathe unaided.	0
b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to wash or bathe.	2
c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to wash or bathe.	2
d. Needs assistance to be able to wash either their hair or body below the waist.	2
e. Needs assistance to be able to get in or out of a bath or shower.	3
f. Needs assistance to be able to wash their body between the shoulders and waist.	4
g. Cannot wash and bathe at all and needs another person to wash their entire body.	8
Activity 5 – Managing toilet needs or incontinence	
a. Can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided.	0
b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence.	2
c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs.	2
d. Needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs.	4
e. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel.	6

f. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel.	8
Activity 6 – Dressing and undressing	
a. Can dress and undress unaided.	0
b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to dress or undress.	2
c. Needs either - (i) prompting to be able to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed; or (ii) prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing.	2
d. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their lower body.	2
e. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their upper body.	4
f. Cannot dress or undress at all.	8
Activity 7 – Communicating verbally	
a. Can express and understand verbal information unaided.	0
b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to speak or hear.	2
c. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand complex verbal information.	4
d. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand basic verbal information.	8
e. Cannot express or understand verbal information at all even with communication support.	12
Activity 8 – Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words	
a. Can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using spectacles or contact lenses.	0
b. Needs to use an aid or appliance, other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to read or understand either basic or complex written information.	2
c. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand complex written information.	2
d. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand basic written information.	4
e. Cannot read or understand signs, symbols or words at all.	8
Activity 9 – Engaging with other people face to face	
a. Can engage with other people unaided.	0
b. Needs prompting to be able to engage with other people.	2
c. Needs social support to be able to engage with other people.	4
d. Cannot engage with other people due to such engagement causing either –(i) overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant; or (ii) the claimant to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to the claimant or another person.	8
Activity 10 – Making budgeting decisions	
a. Can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided.	0
b. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make complex budgeting decisions.	2
c. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make simple budgeting decisions.	4
d. Cannot make any budgeting decisions at all.	6

It is important to read the descriptors with the list of definitions of terms (see overleaf).

Ability to carry out daily living or mobility activities is satisfied only if able to do so:
 (a) safely;
 (b) to an acceptable standard;
 (c) repeatedly; and
 (d) within a reasonable time period
 Regulation 4 SS(PIP)Regs2013



Personal independence payment assessment – mobility activities and definitions

Activity 1 – Planning and following journeys	
a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided.	0
b. Needs prompting to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant.	4
c. Cannot plan the route of a journey.	8
d. Cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid.	10
e. Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant.	10
f. Cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid.	12
Activity 2 – Moving around	
a. Can stand and then move more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided.	0
b. Can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided.	4
c. Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	8
d. Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	10
e. Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres, either aided or unaided.	12
f. Cannot, either aided or unaided, - (i) stand; or(ii) move more than 1 metre.	12

Definitions used in the descriptors above

“aid or appliance”-

(a) means any device which improves, provides or replaces C's impaired physical or mental function; and

(b) includes a prosthesis;

“aided” means with –

(a) the use of an aid or appliance; or

(b) supervision, prompting or assistance;

“assistance” means physical intervention by another person and does not include speech;

“assistance dog” means a dog trained to guide or assist a person with a sensory impairment;

“basic verbal information” means information in C's native language conveyed verbally in a simple sentence;

“basic written information” means signs, symbols and dates written or printed standard size text in C's native language;

“bathe” includes get into or out of an unadapted bath or shower;

“communication support” means support from a person trained or experienced in communicating with people with specific communication needs, including interpreting verbal information into a non-verbal form and vice versa;

“complex budgeting decisions” means decisions involving –

(a) calculating household and personal budgets;

(b) managing and paying bills; and

(c) planning future purchases;

“complex verbal information” means information in C's native language conveyed verbally in either more than one sentence or one complicated sentence;

“complex written information” means more than one sentence of written or printed standard size text in C's native language;

“cook” means heat food at or above waist height;

“dress and undress” includes put on and take off socks & shoes;

“engage socially” means –

(a) interact with others in a contextually and socially appropriate manner;

(b) understand body language; and

(c) establish relationships;

“manage incontinence” means manage involuntary evacuation of the bowel or bladder, including use a collecting device or self-catheterisation, and clean oneself afterwards;

“manage medication” means take medication, where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in C's health;

“manage therapy” means undertake therapy, where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in C's health

“medication” means medication to be taken at home which is prescribed or recommended by a registered –

(a) doctor; (b) nurse; or (c) pharmacist;

“monitor a health condition” means –

(a) detect significant changes in C's health condition which are likely to lead to a deterioration in C's health; and

(b) take action advised by a –

(i) registered doctor; (ii) registered nurse; or

(iii) health professional who is regulated by the Health Professions Council,

without which C's health is likely to deteriorate;

“orientation aid” means a specialist aid designed to assist disabled people to follow a route safely;

“prepare”, in the context of food, means make food ready for cooking or eating;

“prompting” means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person;

“psychological distress” means distress related to an enduring mental health condition or an intellectual or cognitive impairment;

“read” includes read signs, symbols and words but does not include read Braille;

“reasonable time period” means no more than twice as long [as would normally be taken];

“repeatedly” means as often as the activity being assessed is reasonably required to be completed;

“safely” means in a manner unlikely to cause harm to C or to another person, either during or after completion of the activity;

“simple budgeting decisions” means decisions involving –

(a) calculating the cost of goods; and

(b) calculating change required after a purchase;

“simple meal” means a cooked one-course meal for one using fresh ingredients;

“social support” means support from a person trained or experienced in assisting people to engage in social situations;

“stand” means stand upright with at least one biological foot on the ground;

“supervision” means the continuous presence of another person for the purpose of ensuring C's safety;

“take nutrition” means –

(a) cut food into pieces, convey food and drink to one's mouth and chew and swallow food and drink; or

(b) take nutrition by using a therapeutic source;

“therapeutic source” means parenteral or enteral tube feeding, using a rate-limiting device such as a delivery system or feed pump;

“therapy” means therapy to be undertaken at home which is prescribed or recommended by a –

(a) registered – (i) doctor; (ii) nurse; or (iii) pharmacist; or

(b) health professional regulated by the Health Professions Council; but does not include taking or applying, or otherwise receiving or administering, medication (whether orally, topically

or by any other means), or any action which, in C's case, falls within the definition of “monitor a health condition”;

“toilet needs” means –

(a) getting on and off an unadapted toilet;

(b) evacuating the bladder and bowel; and

(c) cleaning oneself afterwards; and

“unaided” means without –

(a) the use of an aid or appliance; or

(b) supervision, prompting or assistance.

For commentary see CPAG's *Welfare Benefits and Tax Credits Handbook* and *Personal independence payment: what you need to know*