**PENSION AGE DISABILITY PAYMENT – SPECIAL RULES FOR TERMINAL ILLNESS**

**This affects healthcare professionals who complete Social Security Scotland Benefits Assessment under Special Rules in Scotland (BASRiS) forms and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) SR1/DS1500 forms for terminally ill patients.**

This is a reminder that **Pension Age Disability Payment**, Scotland’s replacement for Attendance Allowance (AA), will be openfor new applications in **all areas across Scotland** from **22 April 2025.**

Terminally ill people living in **Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverclyde, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian** can apply for Pension Age Disability Payment (PADP) under the special rules from 22 April 2025 if they have reached state pension age. Applying under the special rules means Social Security Scotland will fast-track their application.

This national launch follows the opening for new applications of Pension Age Disability Payment in the phase one and phase two pilot areas of Argyll and Bute, Highland, City of Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland, Moray, Aberdeenshire, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, Western Isles, Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife, Angus, City of Dundee and Perth & Kinross local authorities.

A completed [BASRiS](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/guidance/when-to-complete-a-basris-or-a-ds1500-form) form should continue to be completed for terminally ill adults (aged 16 to state pension age), living in Scotland and who are not already in receipt of PIP or Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Scotland’s new terminal illness definition is based on clinical judgement, not life expectancy. A [BASRiS form](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/guidance/requesting-a-basris-form) provides Social Security Scotland with confirmation of a clinical judgement of terminal illness.

**Where should I send a BASRiS form that I have completed for my terminally ill patient who has now reached state pension age?**

From 22 April 2025 (across all areas of Scotland):

* For terminally ill patients newly applying for Pension Age Disability Payment a [BASRiS](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/guidance/when-to-complete-a-basris-or-a-ds1500-form) form (instead of an SR1/DS1500 form ) should be completed and sent to **Social Security Scotland**.
* For patients already in receipt of Pension Age Disability Payment who later go on to receive a terminal illness diagnosis, a **BASRiS** form should be completed and sent to **Social Security Scotland.**
* People already in receipt of Attendance Allowance (DWP benefit) should [report any change in circumstances](https://www.gov.uk/report-benefits-change-circumstances), including a terminal illness diagnosis, to DWP; a [BASRiS](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/guidance/when-to-complete-a-basris-or-a-ds1500-form) form should be completed and sent to **DWP**. DWP will also accept an SR1 or DS1500 form.

**Further Information**

**Special Rules for Terminal Illness - Scotland**

Under the special rules, Social Security Scotland fast-tracks disability benefit applications from people who are terminally ill. Receipt of a BASRiS form is an essential part of this expedited process as it provides Social Security Scotland with confirmation of a person’s terminal illness. The decision making process by Social Security Scotland is time critical for terminally ill people. **Through prompt completion of a BASRiS form, clinicians play a key role in helping their terminally ill patients quickly access the support they are entitled to**.

**Chief Medical Officer’s guidance**

To comply with the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018, clinicians are required to pay regard to the [Chief Medical Officer's Guidance](https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/cmo-2023-20.pdf) when completing a BASRiS form. Registered Medical Practitioners and Registered Nurses are expected to promptly complete the BASRiS form for relevant patients.

**How can I access and submit the BASRiS form?**

If you have access to the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN) on an NHS network, you can complete a BASRiS web form. This is the quickest way to submit a BASRiS to Social Security Scotland.

Otherwise, you can use an editable PDF BASRiS form (submitted by email) or a paper BASRiS form (submitted by post). If you require a stock of paper BASRiS forms, you can order these by emailing Glasgow.mailroom@socialsecurity.gov.scot. Members of the public cannot request BASRiS forms.

Further information about BASRiS forms can be found [here](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/guidance/requesting-a-basris-form).

**Additional Support**

A number of resources are available to support clinicians who are interpreting and applying the Scottish definition of terminal illness when completing a BASRiS form.

All the resources can be found in our Special Rules for Terminal Illness [Guidance Library](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/guidance?keyword&guidanceTopics%5b0%5d=special-rules-for-terminal-illness&startday&startmonth&startyear&endday&endmonth&endyear). These have been developed in conjunction with clinicians, the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners in Scotland and the Royal College of Nursing to ensure relevance to professional regulatory requirements.

**Stakeholder Events for Pension Age Disability Benefit**

Social Security Scotland are hosting stakeholder events which will be of particular interest to clinicians and people supporting adults who are terminally ill.

The next Pension Age Disability Payment event will be held on Wednesday 16 April.

The next Special Rules for Terminal Illness / BASRiS event will be held on Wednesday 7 May.

Information on both of these events can be accessed [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/social-security-scotland-19990395045?msockid=29bbc2a719366020167cd702185b616b).