



Personal Independence Payment descriptors

(changes from 17.03.2017 shown underlined. PTO for: PIP definitions, reliability and variability)

Daily Living Component

1. Preparing food

- b. needs to use aid or appliance to prepare or cook a simple meal 2
- c. cannot cook a simple meal using a cooker but can using a microwave ... 2
- d. needs prompting to either prepare or cook a simple meal..... 2
- e. needs supervision or assistance to prepare or cook a simple meal 4
- f. cannot prepare and cook food 8

2. Taking nutrition

- b. needs:
 - i. to use an aid or appliance to... ; **or**
 - ii. supervision to take nutrition; **or**
 - iii. assistance to cut up food 2
- c. needs a therapeutic source to 2
- d. needs prompting to take nutrition ... 4
- e. needs assistance to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition . 6
- f. cannot convey food and drink to mouth & needs another to do so..... 10

3. Managing therapy / monitoring a health condition

- a. either
 - i. does not need medication/therapy or to monitor medical condition,
 - ii. or can manage unaided 0
- b. needs either / any one or more of:
 - i. to use an aid or appliance to manage medication, or
 - ii. supervision, prompting or assistance to manage medication (or monitor a health condition*) * deleted from 17.03.2017)
 - iii. sup. prompt or assist to be able to manage a health condition..... 1

Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to manage therapy that takes:

- c. up to 3.5 hours a week 2
- d. between 3.5 and 7 hours a week 4
- e. between 7 and 14 hours a week 6
- f. at least 14 hours a week 8

4. Washing and bathing

- b. needs to use an aid or appliance 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 hair or body below waist..... 2
- e. needs assistance to get in or out of bath or shower..... 3
- f. needs assistance to be able to wash body between shoulders and waist... 4
- g. cannot wash or bathe at all..... 8

5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence

- b. needs an aid or appliance to manage toilet needs or incontinence 2
- c. needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs..... 2
- d. needs assistance to manage toilet needs 4
- e. needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of bladder **or** bowel 6
- f. needs assistance to manage incontinence of bladder **and** bowel.. 8

6. Dressing and undressing

- b. need aid/appliance to dress/undress .. 2
- c. needs either :
 - i. prompting to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances to remain clothed; **or**
 - ii. prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing..... 2
- needs assistance to dress or undress:
 - d. lower body 2
 - e. upper body 4
 - f. cannot dress or undress at all 8

7. Communicating verbally

- b. needs to use an aid or appliance to speak or hear..... 2
- c. needs communication support to be able to express or understand **complex** verbal information 4
- d. as c. but for **basic** verbal info 8
- e. cannot express or understand verbal info at all, even with support 12

8. Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words

- b. needs to use an aid / appliance (other than contacts/specs) to read or understand written information 2
- c. needs prompting to read or understand **complex** written info 2
- d. as c. for **basic** written info. 4
- e. cannot read or understand signs, symbols or words at all 8

9. Engaging with others

- b. needs prompting to engage with other people..... 2
- c. needs social support to engage..... 4
- d. cannot engage with others as causes:
 - i. overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant; **or**
 - ii. to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to themselves or another person 8

10. Making budgeting decisions

- b. needs prompting or assistance to make **complex** budgeting decisions 2
- c. needs prompting or assistance to make **simple** budgeting decisions 4
- d. cannot make any budgeting decisions at all..... 6

Mobility Component

11. Planning & following journeys

- b. **needs prompting** to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to self 4
 - c. cannot* plan the route of a journey .. 8
 - d. cannot* follow route of an **unfamiliar** journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid..... 10
 - e. **cannot undertake** any journey because it would cause overwhelming distress to self 10
 - f. cannot* follow the route of a **familiar** journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid..... 12
- * from 17.03.17 = Cannot for reasons other than psychological distress...*

12. Moving Around

Can stand and then move :

- a. more than 200m. aided or unaided ... 0
- b. more than 50m. but no more than 200m. either aided or unaided 4
- c. **unaided** more than 20m. but less than 50m..... 8
- d. **using an aid or appliance** more than 20m but no more than 50m 10
- e. more than 1m. but no more than 20m, either aided or unaided 12
- f. cannot either –
 - i. stand; *or*
 - ii. move more than 1 metre 12

Notes:

Other than where indicated, descriptor a. in each activity reads:

- a. can manage ... unaided 0

*Always consider descriptors in context of **reliability**, variability and without pain and discomfort . See the definitions - with more on variability and reliability - overleaf. For more detail, comment, sample PIP2, case law, supporting evidence, submissions see the Big Book of Benefits and Mental Health.*

Standard Rate = 8 to 11 points

Enhanced Rate = 12 + points

(one total for each component)



PIP Statutory Definitions *amendments from 17.03.17 underlined*

See the Big Book for PIP caselaw, guidance, sample forms and more on reliability and variability. **PTO for descriptors**

General definitions:

Aided - with the use of an aid or appliance or with supervision, prompting or assistance

Unaided: without the use of an aid or appliance or supervision, prompting or assistance

Assistance: physical intervention by another person not including speech

Prompting: reminding, encouraging or explaining to another person

Supervision: the continuous presence of another person to ensure person's safety

1: Preparing Food

Cook: heat food at or above waist height

Prepare food: make food ready for cooking or eating

Simple meal: a cooked one-course meal for one using fresh ingredients

2: Taking Nutrition

Take nutrition means cut food into pieces, convey food to mouth, chew and swallow food and drink or by using a therapeutic source

Therapeutic source: parenteral or enteral tube feeding using a rate limiting system e.g. delivery system, feed pump

3: Managing Therapy /Monitoring a health condition

Manage medication or therapy*: take medication or undertake therapy* where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in health (delete reference to therapy post March 2017)

Manage therapy: undertake therapy where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in health (i.e. therapy and medication separated after 17.03.2017)

Medication: medication to be taken at home prescribed/recommended by a registered doctor, nurse or pharmacist

Monitor health / monitor a health condition: detect significant changes in condition likely to lead to a deterioration in health and take action advised by a registered doctor, nurse or regulated health professional without which health is likely to deteriorate

Therapy: to be undertaken at home and prescribed or recommended by a registered doctor, nurse, pharmacist or regulated health professional. But does not include taking or applying or administering medication orally, topically or by any other means or any action which falls within the definition of "monitor a health condition"

4: Washing & Bathing

Bathe: includes getting into or out of an unadapted bath or shower

5: Managing toilet needs or incontinence

Manage incontinence: manage involuntary evacuation of bowels/bladder, including a collecting / self catheterisation device and clean self afterwards

Toilet needs: getting on and off an unadapted toilet, evacuating bladder and bowel and cleaning oneself

6: Dressing & undressing

Dress and undress includes socks and shoes

7: Communicating verbally

Basic verbal information: information in native language conveyed verbally in a simple sentence

Complex verbal information: information in native language conveyed verbally in more than one sentence or one complex sentence

Communication support: i.e. from a person trained or experienced in communicating with people with special communication needs including interpreting in a non-verbal way

8: Reading & understanding

Basic written information: signs, symbols and dates written or printed in standard size text in native language

Complex written information: more than one sentence written or printed in standard size text in native language

Read: includes read signs, symbols and words but does not include Braille

9: Engaging socially

Engage socially: interact with others in a contextually and socially appropriate manner, understand body language and establish relationships

Psychological distress: distress related to an enduring mental health condition

Social support from a person trained or experienced in assisting people to engage in social situations



PTO for the PIP Descriptors

See more information, DWP guidance & PIP Case Law in the latest edition of the Big Book of Benefits and Mental Health

10: Budgeting

Complex budgeting decisions: calculating personal & household budgets, managing and paying bills and planning future purchases

Simple budgeting decision: involving calculating cost of good, and the correct change after a purchase

11: Planning & following a journey

Orientation aid: a specialist aid designed to assist dis people to follow a route safely

Psychological distress: distress related to an enduring mental health condition

Assistance dog: a dog trained to guide or assist for sensory impairments

12 Moving around

Stand: stand upright with one biological foot on the floor

Reliability

"a snapshot view of their condition on a particular day at a particular time is not an adequate assessment"

A claimant is only to be assessed as satisfying a descriptor if they can do so:

- ◆ **Safely:** in a manner unlikely to cause harm to claimant or others either during or after the activity; and
- ◆ **Repeatedly:** as often as is reasonably required; and
- ◆ **to an acceptable standard** i.e. good enough not just basic nor perfect
- ◆ **In a reasonable time period:** not more than twice as long as usual

Also consider ability to manage an activity without pain, breathlessness or other unease or discomfort

Variability

Assess at the worst point in a typical day

During a day:

If a descriptor applies at any point in the day, it applies for the whole day

Between days:

- ◇ If a descriptor is likely to apply on more than 50% of days it counts
- ◇ If more than one descriptor applies over 50% of days, then count the highest
- ◇ If no descriptor applies more than 50% - but different ones do so between them - then count whichever occurs on more days.