

Attendance Allowance

Meaning of terms

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document is to be used in conjunction with our Attendance Allowance factsheet. The purpose of this document is to define the terms that the Department for Work and Pensions / Social Security Agency use in the Attendance Allowance disability tests.

2. Bodily functions

- 2.1. These are personal actions such as:

- Breathing
- Hearing
- Seeing
- Eating
- Drinking
- Walking
- Sitting
- Sleeping
- Getting in / out of bed
- Getting in / out of the bath
- Washing
- Shaving
- Toileting
- Communicating
- Speech practice
- Help with medication or treatment

3. Require

- 3.1. It does not matter whether you actually receive the help; what counts is the help that you need. If it takes you a long time to do something, e.g. getting dressed then you may reasonably require help even though you persevere and eventually manage by yourself.

4. Attention

- 4.1. Active help from another person to do the personal actions you that cannot do for yourself. Indirect or ancillary attention counts but is often forgotten. Think about the beginning and ends of particular activities. For example, you are able to wash and dress yourself, but due to the effects of heart disease, you become breathless and

need a recovery period after the activity. The attention you require is defined by the amount of time taken.

5. Prolonged

5.1. Normally at least 20 minutes.

6. Repeated

6.1. More than once.

7. Frequent

7.1. Several times, not once or twice.

8. Throughout the day

8.1. 'Throughout the day' covers the waking hours of your household. You must show your difficulties are encountered throughout these hours and not just in the morning when you wake and evening when you get ready for bed. If you just need help with washing and dressing in the morning and evening but can manage for the rest of the day you will not meet the criteria. Consider whether you have difficulty managing at other times during the day that you may not have thought of before. For example, when requiring the toilet during the day, do you have difficulty getting out of a chair to get there?

9. Continual supervision

9.1. Supervision means you need someone around to prevent accidents to yourself or other people. The words used are 'continual supervision'. This means frequent and regular, but not non-stop; you do not have to show you need supervision every single minute of the day or night.

10. Substantial danger

10.1. You may be in a position where your illness or disability places you or another person at significant risk. This will usually be if you have mental health difficulties. The supervision required does not have to prevent the danger completely, but it must effect a real reduction in the risk to you or another person.