

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir, Madam

Re: Beneficiary X

The Thalidomide Trust was established in August 1973, with the object of providing support to those people who had disabilities caused because their mothers had taken the drug thalidomide during pregnancy. is one of our Trust Beneficiaries. All individuals named as Beneficiaries are accepted to have damage in-utero from exposure to thalidomide. The individuals all aged between 48 and 56 are affected by a whole myriad of impairments as a result of the drug Thalidomide.

Beneficiary X has the following damage to their body caused by Thalidomide in-utero:

- Shoulder absent or severely deficient shoulder joint on both sides
- Has Preaxial Deficiency resulting in severe shortening of upper limb on both sides and 3 digits on the right and left side.
- Ear malformed on both sides

We are aware that Beneficiary X has been in receipt of a Disability Living Allowance for a number of years but that she is now undergoing an assessment for PIP. The assessment is very upsetting to Beneficiary X whose disability cannot possibly have altered, except perhaps in that life has become more difficult with age.

The Thalidomide Trust have found that upper limb disability is lesser understood than some other disabilities. The effect on living, working, mobility, and social life is profound. Also the psychological impacts of living with severe disabilities that affect every aspect of daily living are complex.

Beneficiary X has developed tactics to enable him/her to live independently. These include, avoiding a task altogether or carrying it out in an alternative manner that the result is not to the same standard as a non-upper limb impaired person. Beneficiary X lives their life accepting that tasks that are managed to be completed independently, mainly take twice, or more time as long as it would a non-disabled person. Beneficiary X would benefit from assistance in preparing food, eating, dressing and managing the toilet. However, Beneficiary X is a very independent person who accepts the limitations upon their life that the damage by Thalidomide presents and manages strategies to cope with their disability.

Yours faithfully

Emily Bates
Healthlink Coordinator

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