

## MOTABILITY & PIP FACTSHEET

### **Q** What is PIP?

**A** PIP (Personal Independent Payment) started to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) from April 2013.

### **Q** If I get PIP do I qualify for a motability vehicle?

**A** Some people living with the effects of Thalidomide join the Motability Scheme – the charitable scheme allowing you to use your Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or PIP to lease a car, scooter or powered wheelchair. See our Motability Fact Sheet for more information.

You are only eligible to join the Motability Scheme if you get the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of PIP (or Higher Rate Mobility DLA). You must have at least 12 months' award length remaining.

### **Q** What happens when my DLA allowance ends?

**A** Since PIP started to replace DLA, some people have found that they do not pass the eligibility assessment for PIP, despite having received DLA. If you have an upper limb disability it is much harder to qualify for enhanced rate of Mobility under the PIP scheme than it was to qualify for High Rate Mobility under DLA as the qualifiers have subtly changed.

Motability can only lease vehicles or chairs to people receiving PIP and are unable to continue or engage in a lease agreement, or assist with adaptations, for people who are not receiving this support. They have no mandate to support people using their own cars and can only help with vehicles leased from the Motability Scheme.

Motability has no influence over decisions made by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and no say in whether, or not, you qualify for PIP or DLA. If you decide to appeal against the discontinuation of your allowance it is a matter for you and the DWP to resolve.

However, Motability is very keen to help with the effect these decisions have on your mobility needs and requirements and understand the upset this may have caused you.

The team will do everything they can to help. They welcome your questions and will talk all the possible options through with you. They have helped many people through the process so contact them as soon as you find out that your allowance is coming to an end.

### **Q** What happens?

**A** When your allowance ends Motability will ask you to return your vehicle within 21 days of your allowance ending. However if you appeal your PIP decision, they will allow you to keep the car pending the decision of your appeal.

If you began leasing your car before 2013 Motability will give you £2000 when you return it.

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Many people find this a useful way of keeping their car and put it towards buying their car back from Motability. You should be aware, however, that Motability can only make this offer if their customers abide by any decisions made by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and do not ignore or try to 'work around' the decisions made about their allowance.

If you've been leasing a scooter or wheelchair from Motability, they will offer you £125 transitional support when your allowance ends. This often enables you to buy the scooter or wheelchair.

### **Q What if I appeal against the decision about my allowance?**

**A** If you appeal successfully against the outcome of your PIP assessment, Motability may be able to place you back on the scheme.

It is not always possible, however, for them to reunite you with your original car as they are required to put vehicles which are returned to them back into the leasing system as quickly as possible.

If the reconsideration of your PIP claim is likely to be resolved within 3 weeks of your returning your car, Motability will ask you not to cash your reimbursement cheque until after the decision has been made.

If you receive PIP payments within 6 months of getting your Motability cheque, the charity will ask you for £1700 back.

If your return to PIP takes 6 months or longer you are able to keep your £2000 Motability payment.

### **Q What if you buy your car**

**A** If you decide to buy your car once the decision about your allowance has been enforced, the Motability Insurer, Royal Sun Alliance, will provide you with a letter explaining your no-claims status that you can take to the insurer of your choice.

If you've paid for adaptations to your car and decide not to buy it from Motability you will either be refunded for the changes you've made, or Motability will pay to have them removed and given to you.

If your adaptations were provided free of charge or supported with funding from the Motability grants team, they will help you source and fit another set of adaptations onto a car of your choice. They will not transfer previously made adaptations from the Motability car.

### **Q And what if I'm on an extended lease?**

**A** If you're coming to the end of a three year lease period, and your PIP eligibility is under assessment, Motability will advise you to keep the same car, chair or scooter until the allowance has been agreed. This is because, if your PIP isn't agreed, your vehicle will be more affordable.

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### **Q What happens if I'm in hospital and the mobility part of my PIP is suspended?**

**A** No one can predict when they might need a stay in hospital. Motability will keep in touch with you and your family whilst you're an in-patient and advise you on where you stand during the suspension of your mobility allowance.

### **For further information**

For further information on Motability visit the charity's website at

<https://www.motability.co.uk/about-the-scheme/>

### **Further reading**

<http://www.motability.co.uk/understanding-the-scheme/personal-independence-payment-and-motability/q-and-a-transitional-support-package>

The contact us section gives you full details of where to enquire and answers common questions and concerns

<http://www.motability.co.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

### **Support from the Trust**

To discuss Motability and PIP, ask questions or raise concerns call the Health & Wellbeing team on 01480 474074.