

England Infected Blood Support Scheme

Payments for widows, widowers and civil / long-term partners of beneficiaries who have died

Introduction

The NHS Business Services Authority manages the England Infected Blood Support Scheme.

It replaces support for English beneficiaries provided by UK-wide schemes, including the:

- Caxton Foundation
- Macfarlane Trust
- Eileen Trust

In this document we give:

- details of payments for widows, widowers or civil partners of an infected person who has died
- explain who is eligible for payments after the infected person's death
- provide guidance on our policy

The government [reformed financial and other support for beneficiaries](#) in 2016.

Payments

The government has agreed eligible widows, widowers and civil partners should get a one-off payment of £10,000.

If your spouse or long-term partner has died

Register with us

Your spouse/long-term partner may have received regular payment from us for Stage 1 or Stage 2 Hepatitis C and/or HIV.

If they die on or after 1 November 2017, you should tell us within 6 months of their death.

We will ask you for details to confirm:

- your identity
- you were the beneficiary's spouse or civil partner
- you were living with them at the time of their death
- that the infection contributed to the death

Once confirmed, you are eligible for the one-off payment.

Not registered with us

If your husband, wife or long-term partner registered with previous schemes, their details should have transferred to us. You should contact us to register yourself for payment.

If your husband, wife or long-term partner died before registering with us or a previous scheme, you do not qualify for payment.

You may still qualify for support and assistance payments. Find out more in the 'Other support for widows, widowers and long-term partners' section of this document.

Qualifying for payments

You qualify for this payment if your spouse or long-term partner was:

- receiving regular payments before they died
- allocated as a 'English' beneficiary by us, the Skipton Fund or MFET

But you have to meet the criteria below:

1. You were married to or in a civil partnership with your spouse/civil partner when they died. You were living together at that time. If you divorced, your civil partnership dissolved or you separated, you are not eligible.
2. You need to provide evidence the Stage 1 or Stage 2 Hepatitis C and/or HIV, or treatment for it, contributed to death.

Already receiving support

Your details should come to us, if you have already been receiving support from the:

- Caxton Foundation
- Macfarlane Trust
- Eileen Trust

We will contact you if you are likely to be eligible and send you an application form.

If we have not contacted you, you will be able to find an [application form on the website](#).

You can also call or [email us](#) and we will send you a form to complete.

What you need to provide when applying

You need to complete a short application. We need a copy of your marriage or civil partnership certificate.

Alternatively, we need proof you were living together as a couple in a relationship akin to a marriage/formal legal union.

You will need:

- a copy of your photo ID (driving licence/passport)
- proof of your address (bank statement etc)
- to confirm the date of your spouse or civil partner's death
- evidence of cohabitation with them at the time they died
- evidence the infection contributed to death (on the death certificate or a letter from doctor/specialist)

Doctor's evidence

This should be a Hepatitis C specialist who treated your spouse or civil partner. This may not be possible if the death was some time ago.

In such cases, you can nominate another hepatologist/infectious diseases consultant. This is only if they have access to your spouse or civil partner's records. You can also nominate your spouse or civil partner's GP.

We will then contact the nominated doctor. We ask them to explain why they believe that Hepatitis C contributed to the spouse or civil partner's death.

We may consult another Hepatitis C specialist and clinical records to verify.

Your spouse or civil partner may have lived outside England when they died. We may contact relevant clinicians in that country about cause of death.

Other support for widows, widowers and long-term partners

You may not qualify for a payment based on the criteria set out above. But you may still be eligible for support and assistance grants.

This is true if you were:

- a spouse, civil partner or long-term partner of someone infected with Hepatitis C or HIV
- registered with one of the UK schemes as a English beneficiary
- not married or in civil partnership, but lived with the beneficiary in a similar relationship
- not married or in a civil partnership with anyone else at the time
- living with them when they died and had not divorced or dissolved civil partnership

Income top-up support

You can apply for income top-up support if you are on a low income.

This is if your household income, including benefits, is below a certain threshold. You can receive payments to top-up your income to that threshold.

The threshold level varies depending on the size of your household. It is higher if you have children under 21 living with you.

Contact us or look at support and assistance grants guidance for more details. You can also get an application form and advice on filling it in from the website.

Contact details

If you have any queries or would like an application form sent to you, you can contact us:

Email: nhsbsa.eibss@nhs.net

Telephone: 0300 330 1294

You can write to us at:

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