

England Infected Blood Support Scheme Payments for people infected with Hepatitis C Stage 1

Introduction

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

In this document, we:

- give you details on lump sums and payments for those infected by NHS blood, blood products or tissue
- provide guidance on our policies

Payments

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

The payment amounts and assessment criteria are subject to future review. This helps us respond to changing needs of beneficiaries and latest clinical evidence.

Beneficiaries can receive the following financial support. It recognises extra costs for individuals as a result of living with Hepatitis C (HCV).

New applicants

You will not have received previous support from the Skipton Fund, MFET or any other UK scheme.

If you have Stage 1 Hepatitis C you'll receive a one-off lump sum of £20,000 when you join.

You'll also receive regular payments, which are currently £3,030 a year, plus £505 winter fuel costs.

Members of existing UK schemes

You'll have already received lump sum payments from the Skipton Fund, MFET or another UK scheme.

| If you have Stage 1 Hepatitis C, you'll have received a one-off lump sum of £20,000.

You'll also receive regular payments, which are £3,030 a year, plus £505 winter fuel costs.

If you have HIV and Hepatitis C (co-infection), you'll have a lump sum from Macfarlane or Eileen and from Skipton.

You'll also receive regular payments, which are currently £18,180 a year, plus £505 winter fuel costs.

I am a beneficiary of Skipton Fund or MFET

Skipton Fund or MFET beneficiaries from before November 2017 can automatically transfer if they give written consent.

You should have received a letter from schemes you are currently with.

The letter is to let you know about the change in scheme and to ask for your consent to transfer your details to us.

Providing consent

As long as you provide consent, your details move to us.

If you were getting regular payments, you should start to receive these from us.

Not providing consent

If you do not provide consent, you would not be able to receive payments after November.

You do not have the option to remain with the UK schemes and continue to receive payments from them.

Not received a letter

If you do not receive a letter, please get in touch with your scheme(s).

Check they have your current address details.

How we contact you

Once your details come to us, we write to let you know about the scheme.

We tell you how to apply for any extra support you might be eligible for.

I have never claimed before

Applying for Stage 1 Hepatitis C payments

You may have been recently diagnosed with Hepatitis C or have not applied earlier.

You can fill in an [application form](#) to make a claim from us if:

- you think you received infected NHS blood or tissue in the UK before September 1991
- someone who received infected blood infected you

Completing forms

Application forms are [available on our website](#).

[Contact us](#) if you have any queries or if you are not sure which form to use.

When you've completed your form, you should pass it to the doctor treating your Hepatitis C.

This should be a Hepatitis C clinical specialist, although it could be your GP if you have not seen a specialist.

If you have any relevant medical records, ensure your doctor has a copy.

What your doctor does

Your doctor completes the form to confirm you have Hepatitis C.

They provide relevant information on any records that show you received:

- a blood transfusion
- blood products
- a tissue transplant

Application decisions

We'll provide a decision on all applications as soon as possible.

It may take longer if we need to ask you or your doctor for further information.

Successful applications

For people infected by NHS blood or tissue, you should be able to confirm that:

- you have Stage 1 Hepatitis C (you may qualify if successfully treated)
- you are living in England or lived there immediately before you moved out of the UK
- you have not already received any payments from another UK scheme
- you are not currently eligible to receive funds from another scheme
- on balance of probability, you got Hepatitis C from NHS treatment in the UK before September 1991 from either a blood transfusion, tissue transplant or blood products

Assessing applications

We assess your application using a balance of probabilities approach.

We look at the probability of you having infection from NHS blood, tissue or blood products.

It is easier to determine this if medical records show you had a blood transfusion before September 1991.

We may still approve your application if you can provide other forms of evidence, such as:

- witness statements
- physical evidence the medical procedure linked to transfusion has taken place

It will not be possible to trace records for transfusion or medical procedures.

We base the assessment on the strength of all the supporting evidence available.

Discuss your application with us

Contact us to discuss the type of information you have. We can tell you whether it is likely to be relevant to your case.

We can give advice about how to try to trace any old medical records.

Evidence about blood products

We look at evidence about infected blood products at the time you received treatment.

The following products may have contained infection, but some were completely safe before September 1991.

If you suffer from haemophilia or another bleeding disorder:

- Factor VIII or Factor IX blood clotting factor
- cryoprecipitate or FEIBA
- plasma or any whole blood transfusion

If you do not have a bleeding disorder, any blood you received through:

- a blood transfusion
- albumin
- bone marrow
- intravenous immunoglobulin (not including Anti-D)
- plasma or DEFIX

Infected by someone else

For people infected by someone who received NHS blood, on the balance of probability, you will need to confirm:

- how you contracted the infection
- the infection came from someone infected by NHS blood
- you live or lived in England

Confirm contraction

This could be from:

- sexual transmission
- mother to baby
- accidental needlestick injury

If you contracted the infection from sexual transmission, you must also confirm:

- you were with the person who infected you at the time (either in marriage, civil partnership or long-term relationship and living together)
- your spouse or partner were unaware they had the infection or you both took reasonable precautions to prevent transmission at the time of you contacted the infection

Confirm the infection came from someone infected by NHS Blood

You must confirm the infection came from someone infected by NHS Blood.

The person must receive payments from us or Skipton Fund. They will need to apply first if not.

Confirm you live or lived in England

You must confirm that you live in England or you lived in England before moving out of the UK.

Support available where the infected person died before applying to join the scheme

If the infected person has died before applying to us, you can still apply.

Executor of estate

You can apply if you're either:

- the executor of the person's estate
- acting on behalf of, or with the consent of, the executor

Provide the same information as for Stage 1 Hepatitis C applications.

This is to show the person would have qualified for support if they were still alive.

You'll need to show you are managing the person's estate or have the authority to make a claim on their behalf.

Successful applications

If your application is successful, the estate gets £20,000 if the person had Stage 1 Hepatitis C.

Widowed, civil or long-term partners

You'll be able to apply for extra support, if you are the deceased person's:

- widow
- widower
- civil partner
- long-term partner

There's [guidance for widows, widowers and partners](#) on support and assistance grants.

Other support for infected people

You may also be eligible for support and assistance grants.

Income top-up support

You can apply for income top-up support if you're 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 varies depending on the size of your household. It is higher if you have a spouse or partner and children under 21 living with you.

[Contact us](#) to get an application form or download one 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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