

England Infected Blood Support Scheme

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Our office is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Ref:

Date: 3 May 2019

Dear

England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS)

You may already be aware, on Tuesday 30 April 2019 the Government announced that additional funding will be made available to support those infected and affected by the infected blood tragedy. This means that we will be introducing changes to the England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS).

New payments

Included in this letter are tables that set out the new payments – these will be paid on your usual July payment date and will be backdated to 1 April 2019.

The main changes are:

- Increased and consolidated payments for all infected beneficiaries.
- A larger number of bereaved beneficiaries will be eligible for income top-up payments.

The structure of the scheme will stay the same, with all beneficiaries receiving winter fuel payments and continuing to have access to one-off discretionary support payments.

Infected beneficiaries

Beneficiaries who were infected with HIV and/ or hepatitis C, and are registered with EIBSS already, do not need to do anything. Uplifts are being made to annual payments. In addition, we have removed the need for you to apply separately for income top-ups and your new annual payments will reflect this. A letter setting out your new consolidated payment amounts (including the backdate to 1 April) and the dates you can expect these to be paid to you in July will be sent to you shortly.

Bereaved beneficiaries

Bereaved beneficiaries who already receive means-tested top-up payments will have their payments automatically recalculated under the new arrangements, using the information they have already submitted to us. A letter setting out your new consolidated payment amounts (including the backdate to 1 April) and the dates you can expect these to be paid to you in July will be sent to you shortly.

Any bereaved beneficiary who now considers they are eligible for additional support, should contact us to find out how they can apply for this. Once an application has been received it will be processed and, if successful, a letter setting out the details of the new support payments will be issued.

Dependent children

In addition, any infected beneficiary with an income below £37,900 who has dependent children in the household may also be eligible for additional support for those children. This support is also available to bereaved beneficiaries with dependent children who receive income top-ups. Please contact us for further details or look at the guidance on our website.

Payments for existing and new beneficiaries will all be backdated to 1 April 2019.

Infected beneficiaries

Beneficiary	Annual non-discretionary payment (£)
Hepatitis C Stage 1	18,458
Hepatitis C Stage 1 + SCM	28,000
Hepatitis C Stage 2	28,000
HIV	28,000
Co-infected Stage 1	38,000
Co-infected SCM	44,000
Co-infected Stage 2	44,000

Bereaved beneficiaries income top-up

Household income (£)	Annual income top-up (£)
0 - 10,000	18,000
10,001 - 15,000	10,421
15,001 - 20,000	5,412
20,001 - 28,400	1,412
28,401+	0

All infected and bereaved beneficiaries will also receive a winter fuel payment of £531 (increased in line with the Consumer Price Index) paid on 1 December 2019 and continue to be eligible for one-off discretionary payments.

Yours sincerely

NHS Business Services Authority