Medicare People



FREE GUIDE · LIVE-IN CARE · 2026/27

Attendance Allowance

A guide for families: the 2026/27 rates, who can claim and how to fill in the form

020 3443 9844
Talk to our Guildford team

4 counties
Surrey, Kent, West and East Sussex

2026/27
rates and rules

Medicare People

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Attendance Allowance is one of the most often missed sources of help with care costs. It is tax-free, not means-tested, and can be spent on anything, including live-in care. This guide explains who can claim and how to make a strong claim.



£76.70
a week, lower rate

£114.60
a week, higher rate

Not means-tested
savings and income don't count

IN THIS GUIDE

- What it is
- The 2026/27 rates
- Who can claim
- How to claim
- Terminal illness rules
- Other help it can unlock

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What is Attendance Allowance?

It is paid by the Department for Work and Pensions to people over State Pension age who need help with personal care, or someone to keep an eye on them, because of an illness or disability. Income and savings don't affect it, and it is paid whether or not anyone is actually providing the help.

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The rates for 2026/27

RATE	PER WEEK	FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED
Lower rate	£76.70	Help during the day, or during the night
Higher rate	£114.60	Help both day and night, or who are terminally ill

These rates apply from April 2026 and usually rise each April.

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Who can claim?

- Has reached State Pension age (younger people claim Personal Independence Payment instead)
- Needs help with washing, dressing, eating, using the toilet or medication, or needs supervision to stay safe
- Has needed that help for at least six months (not needed for terminal illness)
- Lives in England, Wales or Northern Ireland

A diagnosis isn't needed, and they don't have to be receiving care already.



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How to claim

1

Get the form

Online on GOV.UK, or the AA1 form by phone or post

2

Describe a bad day

All the help needed, day and night

3

Add evidence

A GP letter, care plan or diary

Include help that is needed but not currently given, and examples of falls and near misses. If someone is terminally ill, claim under the special rules: they get the higher rate and the claim is dealt with faster.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Worked example (illustrative). John, 88, needs help with dressing and someone nearby at night, so he receives the higher rate.

	PER WEEK
Live-in care (carer's fee £1,090 + agency fee £250)	£1,340.00
Less Attendance Allowance (higher rate)	−£114.60
Left to pay	**£1,225.40**

> Receiving Attendance Allowance can increase entitlement to Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction. A family carer may also be able to claim Carer's Allowance.

Important information and sources

This guide is general information for families in England. It is not financial, legal or benefits advice. Rules and rates change, so always check the official sources below or speak to an independent adviser before making decisions.

Prices shown are a guide. Your exact costs depend on your loved one's needs and will be confirmed in writing before care starts.

Sources

- Attendance Allowance (GOV.UK): gov.uk/attendance-allowance
- Benefit and pension rates 2026 to 2027 (DWP, GOV.UK): gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-and-pension-rates-2026-to-2027
- Pension Credit (GOV.UK): gov.uk/pension-credit
- Paying for care (Age UK): ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/care/paying-for-care/

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Your next steps

- ✓ Check whether your loved one already receives it
- ✓ Keep a one-week diary of the help they need
- ✓ Ask the GP for a short supporting letter
- ✓ Get a free benefits check from Age UK
- ✓ Call us to talk through live-in care costs



FREE, NO-OBLIGATION ADVICE

Talk to our Guildford team

medicarepeople.co/live-in-care

We arrange live-in care across Surrey, Kent, West Sussex and East Sussex.

020 3443 9844

Medicare People

Medicare People currently provides introductory live-in care services. We have submitted our application to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and intend to introduce a fully managed live-in care service following registration.

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