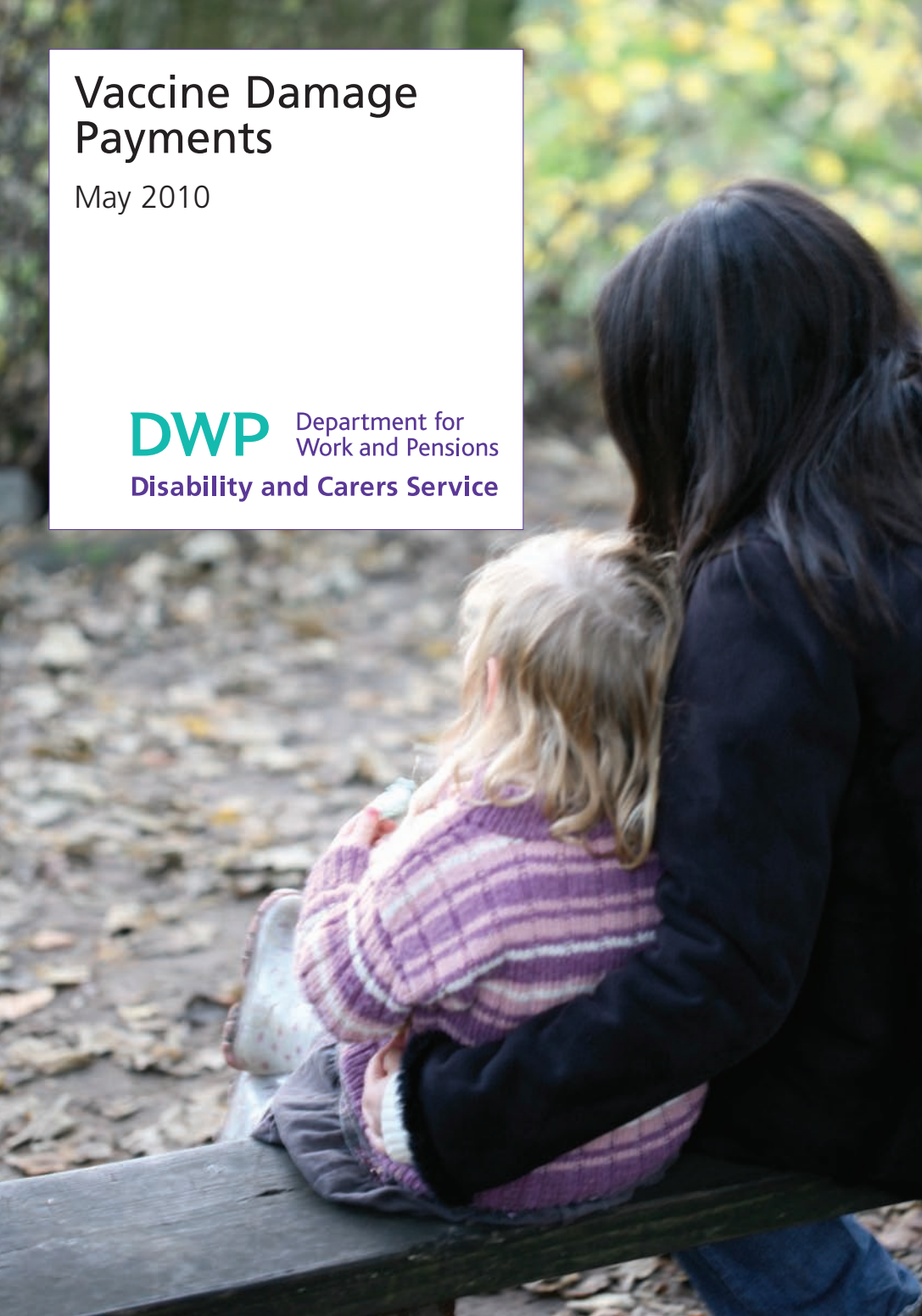


Vaccine Damage Payments

May 2010

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions
Disability and Carers Service



Important information about this leaflet

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure the leaflet is correct as of May 2010. Some of the information may be oversimplified or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

Call us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday on:

Telephone **01772 89 99 44** Textphone **0845 60 45 312**

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Visit us on the web at:

www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp

What is a Vaccine Damage Payment?

If you are severely disabled as a result of a vaccination, you may be able to get a Vaccine Damage Payment.

This is a one-off, tax-free payment to help with extra costs you may face.

Not all vaccinations are covered.

It doesn't matter if you have savings or other money coming in, you can still get a Vaccine Damage Payment.

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Which vaccinations are covered?

You may be able to get a Vaccine Damage Payment if you are severely disabled as a result of being vaccinated for any of the following diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Whooping cough (pertussis)
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- German measles (rubella)
- TB (tuberculosis)
- Smallpox (up to 1 August 1971)
- HIB (Haemophilus Influenzae type B)
- Meningitis C
- Pneumococcal infection
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 (swine flu).

Mixed vaccinations may count too, such as:

- DTP - diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, or
- MMR - measles, mumps and rubella.

Visit us on the web at:

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You may also get a Vaccine Damage Payment if you have a severe disability caused by:

- your mother having any of these vaccinations while she was pregnant with you, or
- being physically close to someone who was given a polio vaccination by mouth.

If you are not sure, please ask us.

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Who can get a Vaccine Damage Payment?

If you are severely disabled as a result of having one or more of the vaccinations listed on page 5 when you were under 18, you can claim.

You can also claim if you are severely disabled as a result of having a vaccination for polio, rubella, meningitis C or Human papillomavirus (HPV) or pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 (swine flu) when you were over 18.

If you or your family are in the Armed Forces, you can claim if you are severely disabled as a result of any of these vaccinations given to you as part of Armed Forces medical treatment while you were abroad.

If the person who had the vaccination has died, you can still make a claim for them. See page 9.

You must have had the vaccination in the United Kingdom, or the Isle of Man, or as part of Armed Forces medical treatment while you were abroad.

Even if you have moved abroad, you may still be able to get a Vaccine Damage Payment.

If you are not sure, please ask us.

Visit us on the web at:

www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp

What does 'severely disabled' mean?

We work out disability as a percentage. This could be a physical or mental disability.

For example, if you completely lost your sight or hearing, we would class you as being 100 per cent disabled. Being 'severely disabled' means someone is 60 per cent or more disabled.

When do I claim?

You should claim as soon as you can.

You must do this:

- no later than your 21st birthday, or
- within six years of the date you had the vaccination if you are over the age of 21.

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Can I claim a Vaccine Damage Payment for someone else?

Yes.

If you are their parent, guardian or representative, you can claim for them:

- from their 2nd to their 21st birthday, or
- if they are 21 or over, but had the vaccination within the last six years.

If the person has died, you can still make a claim for them if they were over the age of two when they died and as long as you claim:

- before the date they would have had their 21st birthday, or
- within six years of them having the vaccination.

Visit us on the web at:

www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp

How much is a Vaccine Damage Payment?

A Vaccine Damage Payment is a one-off payment of £120,000. You do not have to pay tax on this money.

Who is a Vaccine Damage Payment paid to?

If you are 18 or over and can manage your own money, the Vaccine Damage Payment will be paid to you.

For people who are under 18 or unable to manage their own money, the Vaccine Damage Payment will be paid to trustees (people chosen to act on their behalf).

Parents can act as trustees.

If the disabled person has died, the person acting for them will receive the payment.

Call us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday on:

Telephone **01772 89 99 44** Textphone **0845 60 45 312**

How do I claim a Vaccine Damage Payment or find out more information?

To claim a Vaccine Damage Payment, you need to fill in a claim form.

There are a number of ways you can contact us to get a claim form or find out more.

By phone

You can call the Vaccine Damage Payments Unit on:

- 01772 89 99 44 (phone), or
- 0845 60 45 312 (textphone).

Lines are open from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday.

Visit us on the web at:

www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp

Textphones - if you have speech or hearing difficulties

Our textphone numbers are for people who cannot speak or hear clearly. If you don't have a textphone, you could check if your local library or citizens advice bureau has one. Textphones don't receive text messages from mobile phones.

You can also call using Text Relay.

Call charges

Charges were correct as of the date on the back of this leaflet.

Calls to the Vaccine Damage Payments Unit from a BT landline should cost no more than 6p a minute with a 10p call set-up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone, or if you call from abroad.

Calls to **0845** numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 6p per minute with a 10p call set-up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone, or if you call from abroad.

Calls from mobile phones can cost up to 40p per minute, so check the cost of calls with your service provider.

When you ring us, the person who takes your call can only give advice. This advice is not the same as a decision about a claim.

Call us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday on:

Telephone 01772 89 99 44 Textphone 0845 60 45 312

Online

Visit www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp for general advice or www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdpclaim for a claim form.

You can e-mail us at CAU-VDPU@dwp.gsi.gov.uk if you have any questions.

In writing

You can write to the Vaccine Damage Payments Unit at:

Vaccine Damage Payments Unit
Palatine House
Lancaster Road
Preston
PR1 1HB

Visit us on the web at:

www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp

Other formats of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in Welsh and other formats.
Call [01772 89 99 44](tel:01772899944) to find out more.

If you find it difficult to hear or speak clearly, you can order these leaflets from our textphone service on [0845 60 45 312](tel:08456045312).

You can ring these numbers from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays.

Call us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday on:

[Telephone 01772 89 99 44](tel:01772899944) [Textphone 0845 60 45 312](tel:08456045312)

Find out more online:

Directgov

If you are disabled or caring for someone, visit Directgov now for information about financial support, rights, employment, independent living and much more.

Directgov has the widest range of online government information for the public.

www.direct.gov.uk/disability

www.direct.gov.uk/carers

Visit us on the web at:

www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp

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