



## **Factsheet; Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) 2020 /2021**

### **What is disability related expenditure (DRE)?**

Disability related expenditure is money that you spend on items and services that helps you manage or cope with a disability or a long-term health condition. It is money that we may recognise as an 'outgoing' when we do a financial assessment to find out how much you can afford to pay towards your care.

### **Thinking about what would be disability related expenditure**

It can be difficult to think about disability related expenditure and what costs relate to your disability and what costs relate to day-to-day life. Try to think about what is different between what you have to spend compared to a relative, friend or neighbour who does not have your disability or long-term health condition.

### **Disability related expenditure costs usually fall into one of these two categories:**

1. Specialised items and services: you may use things that are made especially to help with your disability, such as wheelchairs and care support. These items may have additional costs, like repair and insurance.
2. Increased use of non-specialised items and services: you may have to use things more because of your disability, such as transport or heating.

### **This guide sets out our standard or maximum allowances for disability related expenses:**

- Costs for disability related services that support the whole household (like a cleaner) will be shared equally between all adults in the household (unless you have a good reason for us to consider a different way of sharing costs).
- Where a service is made up of different elements we will only consider costs for the part(s) that meet a disability related need. Hairdressing is a good example - we will allow a claim for the cost of washing your hair if your disability prevents you doing this yourself, but not the cost of cutting/styling as most people have to pay for this.
- You must provide bills, invoices and statements to support your claim. If you don't we will use our discretion to decide if your claim is reasonable.
- Allowances for special equipment needed due to a disability or condition will be based on the life span of the equipment and either the purchase price you paid or a lower cost alternative if that we believe would be reasonable to meet your identified needs.
- If you must pay for maintenance of equipment - we will make an allowance for this in your financial assessment.



**Please Note:** We won't consider costs incurred for:

- General items or services required for daily living and used by the general population;
- Any item or service met by a payment from a Grant or where another funding source has been provided;
- The difference between the actual cost and a lower cost alternative where we consider it was reasonable for a lower cost alternative;
- Structural or landscaping work (e.g. tree surgery, path laying or re-laying) in gardens or to buildings unless:
  - The work is to help prevent falls (e.g. installing hand rails or repairing footpaths or
  - The modifications to the garden or building are essential for you to be able to use/store securely scooter or wheelchair that you need to use, or to provide secure storage for a scooter and the facility is used as such. In this case, the amount will be calculated as if the modifications were equipment with a suitable life span applied.

## Calculating Disability Related Expenditure

Once DRE has been agreed, it will be deducted from your chargeable income and a final contribution will be calculated.

## Disability Related Expenditure

| Disability Related Expenditure Item                                  | Example   | Evidence Required.   |
|--|---|--|
| Privately-arranged registered care services (including respite care) | Allowable ONLY where this is part of an agreed care assessment and support plan AND the council-arranged support is reduced accordingly.                                  | Invoices or bills from the provider/ personal assistants   |
| Specialist washing powders or laundry                                | If you have to use a special detergent and do more laundry which exceeds 4 loads per week because of incontinence or risk of infection. A fixed amount of £3.91 per week. | Details required about the number of loads of washing each week detailed in care assessment or support plan. |



|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Specific diet/pureed food        | Extra food costs specific to your impairment and not available on the NHS. Only the price difference between a specialist product and a regular item will be consider at our discretion.  | Receipts or invoices and needs identified in care assessment or support plan.  |
| Additional clothing and footwear | Such as extreme wear and tear of clothing/ footwear because of your impairment. Permitted costs up to £312 per year.  | Receipts of purchases Need to be identified in care assessment or support plan   |
| Additional bedding               | Such as incontinence but limited to a maximum of £2.50 per week if the cost is in excess of £40 per year  | Receipts of purchases. Need to be identified in the care assessment or support plan  |
| Heating costs                    | Your heating costs are higher due to your impairment and allowed if the amount is over and above the following fuel bills expected for the size of your property, as follows:<br>Single in flat/terraced £1,552.50<br>Couple in flat/terraced £2,046.07<br>Single in semi-detached £1,648.98<br>Couple in semi-detached £2,171.72<br>Single in detached £2,007.93<br>Couple in detached £2,643.97 | Bills from your energy provider/ bank statements for a 12 month period.  |
| Basic gardening                  | Only considered where there is no other able bodied person is residing in the household or not provided by family. A maximum contribution of £156 per annum.  | Invoices or bills from the provider and identified in care assessment or support plan and not already provided by a Carers Budget. |
| Basic cleaning                   | Disability or condition prevents the person doing this themselves and only where there is no other able bodied person residing in the household or not provided by family. A maximum contribution up to £540per annum   | Invoices or bills from the provider and identified in care assessment or support plan and not already provided by a Carers Budget. |



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Purchase and maintenance of equipment  | Equipment includes hoists, powered and turning beds, scooter/wheelchair and stair lifts. For wheelchair and mobility equipment these costs will be allowed net of any DLA mobility component received.   | Invoices or bills from provider (excluding any Council/NHS/DFG funding) and identified in care assessment or support plan.  |
| Transport costs if necessitated by illness or disability (If transport is not provided by Adult Social Care or Health) | Transport costs necessitated by illness or disability Including costs of transport to day services, over and above the mobility component of DLA or PIP if in payment. Discretion will be taken not to include these costs if a suitable cheaper form of transport e.g. council provided transport to day services is available but has not been used. | Receipts or bills from provider and identified in care assessment or support plan.  |
| Chiropody  | Disability or condition prevents the person doing this. We can consider the actual cost up to a maximum of £3.80 per week or £22.80 every 6 weeks.   | More than one invoice or bill from provider to evidence the customer is receiving this service on a 6 weekly basis and not as a 1 off session. Care assessment must identify restricted movement. |
| Hair Washing   | Allowable where the customer is unable to wash own hair and hair wash is not part of the care package. We will consider the actual cost up to a maximum of £8.04 per week.   | At least 2 receipts for the service and identified in care assessment or support plan.  |
| Other Disability Related Expenses.   | Other Disability Related Expenses may be allowed with good reason and proof of costs. These will be at the discretion of the Council.  | Evidence and receipts of purchase. Evidence of need within care assessment or support plan.   |

Expenditure based on National Association of Financial Assessment.

August 2020