

Health conditions and disabilities hub - at a glance

Universal Credit supports people with health conditions and disabilities by helping them into work that they can do. This involves keeping in touch with the claimant and preparing claimants to take up work when they are able to do so.

Once claimants report a health condition or disability, the work related requirements they can be asked to agree and the amount of Universal Credit they are paid depend on their capability to work. There are different provisions relating to:

- the first 14 days of a health condition
- the period from day 15 onwards
- the period from the 29th day
- the period following the determination based on the outcome of a Work Capability Assessment

Claimants must produce a Statement of Fitness for Work (SoFFW) from day 8 of their reported health condition. Employed claimants can produce a Return to Work Plan instead of a SoFFW.

In most cases, a claimant must be referred for a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) at the 29th day. The WCA provides an assessment of what a claimant can do as well as what he or she can't do.

The outcome of the WCA is used to determine if the claimant:

- has limited capability for work (LCW)
- has limited capability for work and work related activity (LCWRA)
- does not have limited capability for work

In some circumstances, a claimant can be referred for a WCA immediately when the health condition or disability is reported.

Claimants awaiting a WCA are usually allocated to the Intensive Work Search Labour Market regime but can be allocated to an alternative regime depending on individual circumstances.

Once a claimant produces a SoFFW or RtWP the work related requirements they can be asked to accept and the frequency and channel of intervention will be tailored according to individual need. This applies until a determination is made following the outcome of a WCA.

The determination following the outcome of a claimant's WCA is used to:

- award, where the claimant has LCW or LCWRA, the LCW or LCWRA calculation
- allocate the claimant to the appropriate Labour Market regime
- allocate the claimant with the relevant work allowance