

Terminal illness

For DWP purposes a person is regarded as being terminally ill if both of the following apply:

- at any time the person suffers from a progressive disease
- the person's death in consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within 6 months

A claimant may supply a form DS1500. This is confirmation that they have a terminal illness with a life expectancy of up to 6 months.

Form DS1500 is completed by a doctor or other healthcare professional. It should contain details of:

- the diagnosis
- whether the patient is aware they are terminally ill
- if unaware, the name and address of the patient's representative who requested the DS1500
- current and proposed treatment
- brief details of clinical findings

It may not be clear if a DS1500 has been issued. This could result in a difficult conversation with the claimant who must be treated sensitively and with empathy.

If a claimant has been diagnosed with a terminal illness but has a prognosis of life expectancy longer than 6 months they will be eligible for WCA.

A claimant can be given LCWRA from Day 1 of the claim if the DS1500 is held. If the claimant doesn't have a DS1500 and has a prognosis of 6 months or less, they should contact their GP or other healthcare professional to obtain one.

If a DS1500 is not held Day 1 referral action should be taken. If a DS1500 is provided after the Day 1 referral has begun, it should be faxed to the Centre of Health and Disability Assessment (CHDA) An LCWRA decision can be made following a WCA.

If the claimant or their representative says the DS1500 has been sent to PIP/DLA/AA the member of staff must confirm this with PIP/DLA. Verification can either be:

- a terminal illness marker on CIS
- verbal confirmation from a member of PIP/DLA staff

When the claimant makes their claim online and indicate they have a terminal illness, they can request a call back to discuss their terminal illness. This may include explaining the DS1500 and the WCA process. If the claimant has not finished completing their claim on line they may require further support with it

The claimant may, however, decide that they want to complete their online claim themselves.