



## CLAIMING NEW STYLE EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE

### **Claiming ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) if you are too ill to work and you are claiming benefits based on your National Insurance Contributions only**

Contribution based ESA is now called:

- 'new style' ESA

**You should only claim New Style ESA and NOT Universal Credit if you do not need to claim any other benefits apart from ESA.**

There is more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance/eligibility>

For more advice about claiming welfare benefits you can contact the citizens advice bureau on 03444 111 444.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/how-we-provide-advice/advice/>

#### **The First Step to Claiming New Style ESA:**

To make a claim for new style ESA is an online claim and can be made at:

[New Style Employment and Support Allowance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance)

In order to complete the form you need to have the below:

- National Insurance number
- medical certificate
- GP's address and phone number
- home and mobile telephone numbers
- mortgage or landlord details
- council tax bill
- employer's address and telephone number and dates of employment or last day worked
- bank account details
- details of any other money you are getting, such as benefits or sick pay

Once this form has been completed, you will be given a reference number which you will need to take note of, as the DWP will then contact you within 3-5 days to discuss the claim with you.

Headway Preston and Chorley  
Heartbeat Centre, Preston, PR1 6PA  
Tel: 07557123493  
W: [www.headwayprestonandchorley.org.uk](http://www.headwayprestonandchorley.org.uk)  
E: [services@headwayprestonandchorley.org.uk](mailto:services@headwayprestonandchorley.org.uk)  
Charity Number: 1144388



You will also be asked to provide medical evidence, including hospital discharge letters, appointment letters and sick notes. It is worth making a photocopy of these and posting them off ASAP after completing the online claim form to speed up the application process. The postal address for this is on the application website.

**The Next Step:**

A form called the ESA 50 (capability for work questionnaire) will be posted to you and will need completing within a deadline date. There are a number of organisations that can help you complete this form. You can tell your job centre if you are struggling to complete the form and they will advise you of agencies to contact.

If your claim is accepted you will be paid the assessment rate for 13 weeks.

- up to £57.90 a week if you're aged under 25
- up to £73.10 a week if you're aged 25 or over

After completing the ESA 50 you will also be required to attend a work capability assessment. Due to the COVID 19, these assessments are currently being undertaken by telephone.

If you are awarded ESA you'll be placed in one of 2 groups and will receive:

- up to £73.10 a week if you're in the work-related activity group
- up to £110.75 a week if you're in the support group.