



# Guide to Entitlements for People with Heart Failure





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# Disclaimer

This guide to the rights and entitlements of people with heart failure is published by the Irish Heart Foundation. The information in this leaflet is non-exhaustive and is meant as a general guide only and is not a legal interpretation.

There is no guarantee that applications made will be successful. We also cannot provide advice on timelines associated with applications.

## Further Information

For further information on any of the schemes, please go to these official sites for full details – [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) and [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie). Otherwise, the Citizens Information Board is the national agency responsible for supporting the provision of information and advice on social services. Local offices of the Citizens Information Service can be found at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) or by contacting the Citizens Information Phone Service on 0761 07 4000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm).

## Terms – Explained

**Means Test** - A means test is a way of checking if you have enough financial resources to support yourself and what amount of social assistance payment, if any, you may qualify for. In a means test the Department of Social Protection examines all your sources of income.

**Income Test** - An income test examines all your sources of income. However, some income is not taken into account in the calculation of your means.

**Habitual Residency Test** - The term *habitually resident* is not defined in Irish law. In practice it means that you have a proven close link to Ireland. The term also conveys permanence - that a person has been here for some time and intends to stay here for the foreseeable future. Proving you are habitually resident relies heavily on fact. If you have lived in Ireland all your life, you will probably have no difficulty showing that you satisfy the factors which indicate habitual residence.

**Non-Contributory** - Non-contributory generally means that the payment is not based on your record of social insurance contributions.



# Introduction

Heart failure (HF) is one of the major chronic diseases in Ireland today. Because heart failure is a long-term, chronic illness it can have a variety of symptoms. This means it can involve frequent visits to doctors, require lots of tests, and involve many prescription medications. Heart failure may impact how you function in daily activities as well as impair your ability to work.

## About this Booklet

The social welfare and health services systems are both complicated and finding the information you need can sometimes be a difficult and emotional experience for those who have not had to look for it before.

This booklet gives you an overview of entitlements for people with heart failure, so that you can quickly get to know the different services and supports that are available to you. There are many sicknesses and disability benefits you, as a heart failure patient, may be entitled to claim across the HSE and social welfare systems. This booklet hopes to provide a short overview of these.



# Advice on Making Claims and Applications

When trying to request any benefit or service, it is important you give as much detail as possible about how heart failure impacts your daily life. This should include the help/support you need to complete basic daily activities. You should also provide examples where you can; this will help the decision maker get a clear picture of how your health impacts your daily life.

Examples are things like: I get breathlessness doing housework, walking etc. and this means that I cannot clean the house, I cannot go upstairs, I cannot lift heavy objects.

Example: I used to be a cleaner and can no longer do intensive work as I get short of breath.

Important things to think about when filling out applications:

- 1. Get all the paperwork you need from all relevant sources.** This is particularly important when you are filling out applications relevant to your medical condition. Gather as much information from your GP, specialist, or community care team (public health nurse) that not only shows that you have the condition, but also how serious it is. You can do this by showing how it impacts you on a day-to-day basis and what care/treatments/medication you need. Getting all the documentation for the application may be difficult and time-consuming to start, but it will save you a lot of trouble down the line and improve your chances of having a successful application.
- 2. Make a diary of a “typical day” in your life.** In many applications, most often for social welfare, you must detail how your medical condition affects the activities of your typical day and give examples. Do not hesitate to attach a sample diary that outlines in detail how your condition impacts your day from the moment you wake up until you go to sleep. Be specific and do not leave any details out. Reference how activities that were once simple are now changed by your medical condition.
- 3. Try to clearly show how your ability to take on and carry out work would be much less than before you had heart failure.** This is particularly important to disability allowance requests. Having regard to age, experience, and qualifications, show how you wouldn't be able to do the same work as someone without heart failure or how you couldn't continue the work you may have done in the past.

# Health services

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## Medical Card and GP Visit Card

A medical card allows you to access a range of health services free of charge, including GP services and public hospital services.

### Qualification

To potentially be able to get a medical card, your weekly income must be below a certain figure for your family size. Cash income, savings, investments and property (except for your own home) are taken into account in the means test. There are different guidelines for the means test depending on your age: guidelines for under 70s and for people aged 70 and over. If your income is above the limit, you may still be able to obtain a medical card if your circumstances would result in hardship without one. This is sometimes called a discretionary medical card however there is nil guarantee in relation to this.

If it is decided that you are not eligible for a medical card, you may qualify for a GP visit card if you pass an income test. The GP visit card would allow you to have free visits to certain GPs. The GP visit card does not cover hospital charges. Prescribed drugs are not free but may be covered by the Drugs Payment Scheme. The GP visit card also covers visits to GP out of hours services.

A GP visit card is available without an income test to all children under the age of 6 and to everyone over the age of 70. The rules for assessing the amount of your income are the same as for the medical card means test for people aged under 70 but the income limits for the GP visit card are higher than the limits for the medical card.

What a Medical Card or a GP Visit Card covers		
	Medical Card	GP Visit Card
General practitioner service (family doctor) and Diabetes Cycle of Care	✓	✓
Drugs, medicines, and appliances that are reimbursed (cost paid back) under the General Medicines Scheme (GMS)	✓	✗
Certain services that are part of the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS)	✓	✗
Certain eye (ophthalmic) services and appliances	✓	✗
Certain hearing (aural) services and appliances	✓	✗
Maternity cash grant	✓	✗



## How to Apply

### Apply online:

The quickest way to apply for a Medical Card or GP Visit Card is online at [www.mymedicalcard.ie](http://www.mymedicalcard.ie). For the people included in your application, you will need to provide:

- PPS numbers
- Dates of birth
- Income and expense details

Make sure that all your information is correct and upload any and all supporting documentation.

### Apply by post:

To apply for a medical card by post, follow these four steps:

#### 1. Get the form by

- a. Downloading it in English or Irish from [www.hse.ie/eng/cardsschemes/medical-card/how-to-apply/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/cardsschemes/medical-card/how-to-apply/)
- b. Calling LoCall 1890 252 919 to ask the HSE to send you a form in the post
- c. Visiting your local Health Centre

#### 2. Read the form and, if you have any questions about the form, call the HSE before you fill it out. Use the number in step 1.

#### 3. Fill in all relevant information.

#### 4. Check it and post your completed form and all supporting documentation to:

The National Medical Card Unit,  
PO Box 11745,  
Dublin 11,  
D11 XKF3





## Emergency Medical Cards

An emergency medical card is a medical card that is approved without a means test in certain emergency situations.

An application can be made for an emergency medical card under the following circumstances;

1. An applicant is terminally ill and receiving end of life care
2. An applicant is in need of urgent medical ongoing care and requires medical card eligibility to receive such care





## How to Apply

Only a healthcare professional can apply for an emergency medical card for you. They must send a detailed medical report with an application form including your diagnosis, planned treatment and the prognosis (outlook). This report can be completed by your GP or a Hospital Doctor; An emergency circumstances form called an MC1 (e) will also need to be completed . It is important to note that there is nil guarantee this application will be approved and how long the outcome of this application will take . If this application is approved it may be in place for a fixed amount of time or sometimes it can be approved for an indefinite period- in the situation that it is approved for a fixed amount of time it is advised to complete a general medical card application prior to this expiry date; If deemed appropriate we would advise you to discuss an emergency medical card application with your GP and or Hospital Doctor .

Please note those who have a prognosis of 24 months or less can apply for a medical card by completing a new form called MC1t form, there is nil guarantee this application will be approved.

**For more information phone the National Medical Card Unit on 051 595 129 or Locall 1890 252 919.**





## Drugs Payment Scheme

Medical card holders are entitled to prescribed medicines but must pay a prescription charge. Under the Long-Term Illness Scheme, people with certain conditions can get free medicines and appliances for those conditions. Heart failure, however, is **not** covered under this scheme.



### Qualification

If you are not covered by a medical card, you can register for the Drugs Payment Scheme which covers prescription costs that are over a set monthly amount. Under the Drugs Payment Scheme, you pay a maximum of €114 in a calendar month for approved prescribed drugs, medicines and certain appliances for use by yourself and your family in that month.

### How to Apply

#### Apply online:

You can apply for the Drugs Payment Scheme online at [mydps.ie](https://mydps.ie).

#### Apply by post:

You can also get a paper application form from your Local Health Office and post it to:

Drugs Payment Scheme Client Registration Unit  
PO Box 12966  
Dublin 11

Locall: 1890 252 919

Homepage: [www.mydps.ie](https://www.mydps.ie)

Homepage: [www.drugspayment.ie](https://www.drugspayment.ie)



## Dental, Aural and Optical Health

Dental, aural (hearing), and optical (vision) services are provided to medical card holders. Medical card holders are allowed to have a free yearly dental examination, extractions, two fillings and emergency treatment. Other treatments, including providing dentures, require the prior approval of the local HSE dental surgeon.

The Treatment Benefit Scheme may cover you for dental, optical and audiology services if you have enough Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) contributions. There are charges for public hospitals but some people are exempt, including medical card holders, children up to six weeks of age and children referred from child health clinics or school health checks.





## Home Support Services

The HSE Home Support Service (formerly called the Home Help Service or Home Care Package Scheme) aims to help older people remain in their own homes for as long as possible and to support unofficial carers.

The Home Support Service provides you with support for everyday tasks including:

- Getting into and out of bed
- Dressing and undressing
- Personal care such as showering and shaving

The support you will receive depends on your individual needs. These supports will be provided by the HSE or by an external provider and approved by the HSE.

This application is a care needs assessment ; It can be applied for in the community by for example your public health nurse , social worker, occupational therapist and physiotherapist and or when you are in hospital ; This application is subject to assessment and there is nil guarantee this application will be approved .

### Costs

The Home Support Service is free. You do not need a medical card to apply and your income will not be assessed. However, if you arrange additional home supports, over and above the level funded by the HSE, you will have to pay for these.

### Who Can Apply?

The Home Support Service is available to people aged 65 or over who may need support to continue living at home or to return home following a hospital stay. Sometimes exceptions are made for people younger than 65 who may need support.

### What Services Will I Get?

The services that are provided vary, depending on individual needs. For example, they may include help with everyday tasks such as getting into and out of bed, bathing and dressing. When you apply, the HSE arranges an assessment of the kinds of support you may need. This is called the Care Needs Assessment.



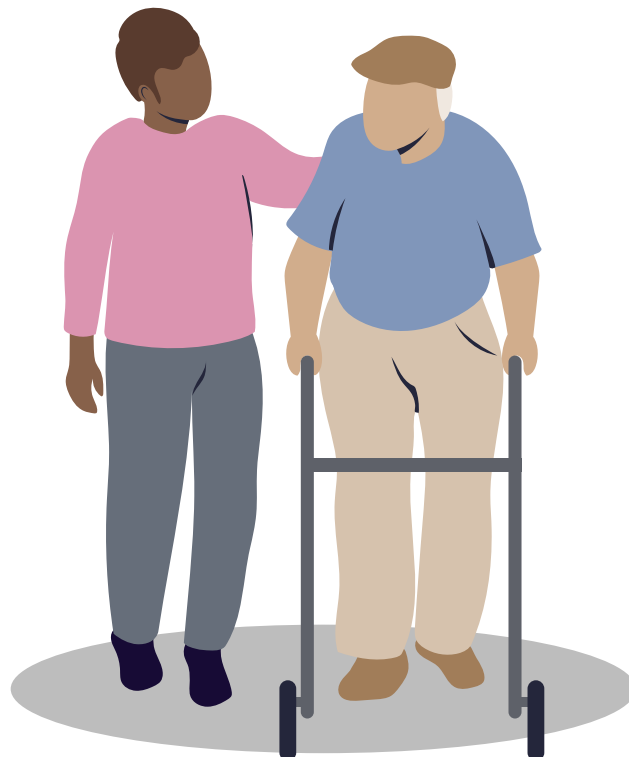
## What is the Care Needs Assessment?

When you apply, the HSE will assess your healthcare needs and social circumstances. The assessment will identify the level of care that you receive at the time and what other supports you may need. The assessment will be done by a healthcare professional such as a public health nurse or physiotherapist. The HSE will write to you to let you know what decision is made about the supports you need.

Community care services include public health nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, home help services, chiropody services, speech and language therapy services, respite care and day care. There are differences in the availability of community care services and not all are available in all areas. Find out more about what is available locally by asking your Local Health Office, Citizens Information Centre or GP.

## How to Apply

To get an application form, contact your local Home Support Office. Details of local offices are available at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/home-support-services/contact-your-local-home-support-office/contact-your-local-home-support-office.html>



# Disability-Related Payments

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For some social welfare payments, you must have enough Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) contributions to qualify. Other payments have a means test and whether you qualify depends on how much money you make.

## Illness Benefit

Illness Benefit is a short-term payment made to people who are unable to work due to illness. You must be aged under 66, covered by the appropriate group of social insurance (PRSI) and satisfy the PRSI conditions.

### How to Qualify

You must apply for Illness Benefit within six weeks of becoming ill. No payment is made for the first six days of illness, which are known as waiting days. (Note that Sunday is not counted as a waiting day.)

Whether you qualify for payment or not, you should always enter a claim for Illness Benefit when you are certified unfit for work. You may be entitled to PRSI credited contributions for each week you are ill, and these could help you qualify for future social welfare payments.

Illness Benefit is paid for a maximum of:

- Two years (624 payment days) if you have at least 260 weeks of social insurance contributions paid since you first started work, or
- One year (312 payment days) if you have between 104 and 259 weeks of social insurance contributions paid since you first started work







## How to Apply

You must get an Illness Benefit claim form (IB1) and a medical certificate (called a 'Certificate of incapacity for work') from your family GP. You do not need to pay for the certificate as the Department of Health pays the doctor an agreed fee. However, you might have to pay for the doctor to examine you.

You should apply for Illness Benefit within six weeks of becoming ill. If you don't apply within this time, you may lose some of your payment. If there is a good reason for a delay in applying, your payment may be backdated. If you need to make a backdated claim for Illness Benefit, you need to complete part 3 of the IB1 claim form.

Hospital certs: if you are or have been an in-patient in a hospital, you should ask a hospital doctor to give you a pro forma letter which you can bring to your GP who will issue the claim form (IB1) and medical certificate to you with no charge. If you're still in hospital, a family member can bring the pro forma letter to your GP on your behalf.

## Apply by Post:

Completed claim forms (IB1) and medical certificates should be sent by Freepost to:

Social Welfare Services,  
PO Box 1650,  
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 704 3300

Locall: 1890 928 400 (Note: the rates charged for using 1890 (Locall) numbers may vary)

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/ddf6e3-illness-benefit/>

Email: [illnessbenefit@welfare.ie](mailto:illnessbenefit@welfare.ie)



## Invalidity Pension

Invalidity Pension is a long-term PRSI-based payment for people with a serious illness or disability. Invalidity Pension is a weekly payment to people who cannot work because of a long-term illness or disability and are covered by social insurance (PRSI). At 66, you transfer automatically to the State Pension (Contributory) at the full rate. Invalidity Pension is taxable. You are entitled to a Free Travel Pass. You may also get extra social welfare benefits, for example, the Household Benefits Package.

### Rules

Invalidity Pension is a payment for insured people who are permanently incapable of work because of an illness or incapacity. To get Invalidity Pension, criteria relating to social insurance contributions and medical condition must be met.

1. You must have at least:
  - 260 (five years') paid PRSI contributions since entering social insurance
  - 48 weeks of paid or credited PRSI contributions in the last or second last completed year before the start date of your permanent incapacity for work. The start date of permanent incapacity is usually after you have been incapable of work due to illness for one year. However, it can be less than one year if you are permanently incapable of work for life.
  
2. To qualify you must:
  - Have been incapable of work for at least 12 months and be likely to be unable to work for at least another 12 months (you may have been getting Illness Benefit or Disability Allowance during that time) OR
  - Be permanently unable for work (in certain cases of very serious illness or disability, you can transfer directly from another social welfare payment or from your job to Invalidity Pension).

A Deciding Officer of the Department of Social Protection will look at your claim and make a decision based on the information outlined above.



## How to Apply

Apply by filling in an Invalidity Pension application form (INV1). You can get a form from your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office. Completed forms can be sent to:

Invalidity Pension Section,  
Social Welfare Services Office,  
Government Buildings,  
Ballinalee Road,  
Longford

Tel: 043 334 0000

Locall: 1890 92 77 70 (Note: the rates charged for using 1890 (Locall) numbers may vary)

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d148b9-invalidity-pension/>

Email: [Invgenenq@welfare.ie](mailto:Invgenenq@welfare.ie)





## Disability Allowance

Disability Allowance is a long-term means-tested payment for people with a disability that greatly affects their ability to work. While on this allowance you can still earn some money from rehabilitative work.

### Rules

To qualify for Disability Allowance you must meet the following conditions:

- Have an injury, disease or physical or mental disability that has continued, or may be expected to continue, for at least one year. You need to have your own doctor complete a medical report about your condition. This is part of the application. This report is then looked at by one of the Department of Social Protection's Medical Assessors.
- Be greatly limited in your ability to work because of your condition. Work that you should be able for as a person of your age, experience and qualifications if it were not for your condition.
- Be aged between 16 and 66. When you reach 66 years of age you no longer qualify for Disability Allowance, but you are assessed for a State pension.
- Satisfy a means test.
- Satisfy the habitual residence condition.

### How to Apply

You can get an application form for Disability Allowance from:

Disability Allowance Section,  
Department of Social Protection,  
Social Welfare Services Office,  
Government Buildings,  
Ballinalee Road,  
Longford

Tel: 043 334 0000

Locall: 1890 92 77 70

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/df6811-disability-allowance/>

Email: [DA\\_InetInfo@welfare.ie](mailto:DA_InetInfo@welfare.ie)

You can also get an application form in your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.



## Claiming for a Child Dependant

Your social welfare payment is made up of a weekly amount for yourself, called the personal rate. You may also get an extra amount for your child. This is called an Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC). (If you have an adult dependant (someone who depends on you), you may get an Increase for a Qualified Adult.)

### Rules

To get an Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC), your child must:

- Be resident in the State
- Not be in legal custody
- Meet the age condition for that payment
- Live with you

You do not get an IQC if your child is getting a social welfare payment or Supplementary Welfare Allowance of their own (with the exception of Disablement Benefit).

#### *Children under 18*

A child dependant is usually a child up to 18 years of age who lives with you.

#### *Children aged 18 and over*

If your child is 18 years of age or over, you can continue to get an Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC) for three months after he or she leaves second-level education or finishes the Leaving Certificate (provided they are not getting a social welfare payment of their own). If you are getting a long-term social welfare payment and your child is in full-time education, an IQC will be paid up to 22 years of age or up to the end of the academic year in which he or she turns 22.

You do not get an Increase for a Qualified Child with the following payments:

- Working Family Payment
- Guardian's Payment (Contributory)
- Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension

You do not get an IQC if you are claiming Illness Benefit, Injury Benefit, Health and Safety Benefit, Jobseeker's Benefit or Disablement Benefit (Incapacity Supplement), Invalidity Pension, Carer's Benefit or State Pension (Transition) and State Pension (Contributory) **and** the gross income of your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant is over €400.

### How to Apply

To get an Increase for a Qualified Child you must give details about your child dependant on your claim form when you apply for a social welfare payment. If you did not claim for your child dependant at the time you made your claim, you can contact the section in the Department of Social Protection which pays your social welfare payment.

# Other Schemes

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## Household Benefits

The Household Benefits Package (HBP) can help you with the cost of the TV licence and your electricity or gas bill. Only one person in a household can get the Package. You can get the Household Benefits Package if you are aged 70 or over. You do not need to be getting a State pension and the package is not means tested. In some cases, people under 70 can get the HBP. You can apply online for the Household Benefits Package using MyWelfare.ie or you can fill in the Household Benefit Package application form and return it to the Household Benefits Package section:

Department of Social Protection,  
Household Benefits Package,  
Social Welfare Services,  
College Road,  
Sligo

Tel: 071 915 7100

Locall: 1890 500 000

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/e87d27-household-benefits-package/>

Email: [householdbenefits@welfare.ie](mailto:householdbenefits@welfare.ie)





## Fuel Allowance

A Fuel Allowance is a payment under the National Fuel Scheme you can use to help with the cost of heating your home during the winter months. It is paid to people who are dependent on long-term social welfare payments and who are unable to provide for their own heating needs. Fuel Allowance is a means-tested payment. If you are getting a non-contributory social welfare payment, you are accepted as satisfying the means test.



Only one Fuel Allowance is paid for each household. Fuel Allowance is generally paid with your social welfare payment on the same day. You can choose to get Fuel Allowance paid weekly or to get your total allowance paid in two lump sums.

### How to Apply

If you are applying for Fuel Allowance for the first time you need to fill in application form NFS 1. This application form is available from your local post office. You can also request it by texting FORM FUEL followed by your name and address to 51909.

## Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme

The Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme helps people with little or no income. It consists of a basic payment, called Supplementary Welfare Allowance, and other financial extras for certain costs you might not be able to meet, such as emergency situations. It is given by the Department of Social Protection's representative (known before as the Community Welfare Officer) in your local Intreo centre.



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## Carer's leave

Carer's leave allows people to leave work temporarily to provide full-time care and attention for someone who needs it. You can take carer's leave for a minimum of 13 weeks and up to a maximum of 104 weeks. Taking carer's leave from employment means you will not be paid but your job will be kept open for when you return.

While on carer's leave you may be able to get a social welfare payment from the Department of Social Protection. If you have enough PRSI contributions, you may qualify for Carer's Benefit (see below). If you cannot get Carer's Benefit, you may qualify for Carer's Allowance (see below) which is a means-tested payment. You can still take carer's leave even if you do not qualify for these payments. If you are on carer's leave but do not get Carer's Benefit or Carer's Allowance, you will get PRSI credits. Getting PRSI credits means you will continue to qualify for social welfare benefits.

## Rules

To get carer's leave, you must have worked for your employer for 12 months without a break in employment.

The person you will be caring for must need full-time care and attention. A deciding officer of the Department of Social Protection will decide whether they need this care after checking with their GP. The person must need someone with them at all times to:

- Keep them safe and help them throughout the day with their normal personal needs, such as eating, drinking, washing and dressing, or
- Protect them from being a danger to themselves

The person you care for does not have to be a family member or spouse, they can be a friend or colleague.

You can still work for up to 18.5 hours a week in employment or self-employment while you are on carer's leave, just as long as you earn less than €332.50 a week. (This is your take-home pay after deductions such as tax, PRSI and union dues.) The hours limit you can work increased from 15 hours to 18.5 hours in January 2020. If you are not working you can attend an educational or training course or do voluntary work for a maximum of 18.5 hours a week while on carer's leave.



## How to Apply

### 1. Apply to the Department

The Department must confirm that the person you will be caring for needs that care. The first step to getting carer's leave is to complete the application form for Carer's Benefit.

The GP of the person you will be caring for must complete part of the form. If the person is under 16 and Domiciliary Carer's Allowance is being paid for them, the GP does not need to complete part of the form. Your employer must also fill in part of this form to confirm that you are an employee. Send the completed application form to the Carer's Benefit Section:

Carer's Benefit Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford

Tel: 043 334 0000

Locall: 1890 92 77 70

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/455c16-carers-benefit/>

Email: [Carersbenefit@welfare.ie](mailto:Carersbenefit@welfare.ie)

### 2. Apply to Your Employer

At least six weeks before you plan to take carer's leave from employment, you must apply formally in writing to your employer for this leave. In emergency situations where you cannot give six weeks' notice, you should give notice as soon as you can. In your letter you must say:

- That you wish to take carer's leave under the Carer's Leave Act 2001
- When you want to start the carer's leave (the date)
- The way in which you intend to take this leave (that is, in one block, or in a series of shorter blocks, for example, six weeks or 20 weeks)
- You have asked the Department of Social Protection to check that the person you will be caring for needs this care
- At least two weeks before your carer's leave is due to start, you and your employer must sign the agreement on carer's leave.



## Carer's Benefit

Carer's Benefit is a payment made if you are insured and need to leave work to care for a person(s) who need full-time care and attention.

You can get Carer's Benefit for a total period of 104 weeks for each person being cared for. This may be taken as a single continuous period or in any number of separate periods up to a total of 104 weeks. However, if you claim Carer's Benefit for less than six consecutive weeks in any given period you must wait for a further six weeks before you can claim Carer's Benefit to care for the same person again. If you are caring for more than one person, you may receive payment for each care recipient for 104 weeks. This may result in the care periods overlapping or running together.

If you get Carer's Benefit, you are eligible for a GP visit card.

### Rules:

You may be eligible for Carer's Benefit if:

- You are aged 16 or over
- You have been employed for at least eight weeks, whether uninterrupted or not, in the previous 26-week period. You must be working for a minimum of 16 hours per week or 32 hours per fortnight. You don't have to meet this condition if you were getting Carer's Benefit in the previous 26 weeks.
- You give up work in order to be a full-time carer. Being a full-time carer means you must be living with or in a position to provide full-time care and attention to a person in need of care who is not living in an institution.
- You are not living in a hospital, convalescent home or other similar institution. However, you may continue to be regarded as providing full-time care and attention, if you or the person being cared for is having medical or other treatment in a hospital or other institution for a period not longer than 13 weeks.
- You meet the PRSI contribution conditions.
- The person being cared for is so incapacitated as to require full-time care and attention and is not normally living in an institution. Medical certification is required unless the person being cared for is a child who is getting Domiciliary Care Allowance. The carer of a child on a Domiciliary Care Allowance does not need to be the person who receives that allowance on the child's behalf.
- You do not take part in employment, self-employment, training or education courses outside the home for more than 18.5 hours a week. The maximum amount you can earn is €332.50 per week.

# ENTITLEMENTS FOR THE CARERS OF HEART FAILURE PATIENTS



## How to Apply:

You can apply by filling in an application form for Carer's Benefit. This form (CARB1) is available from your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office or from the Carer's Benefit Section. The Department of Social Protection recommends that you apply for Carer's Benefit 10 weeks before you leave employment.

Parts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 should be completed by the carer. Part 4 should be completed, signed and stamped by the carer's employer. Part 10 should be completed by the person(s) receiving care and his/her doctor should complete, sign and stamp the Medical Report.

Send the completed application form to the Carer's Benefit Section:

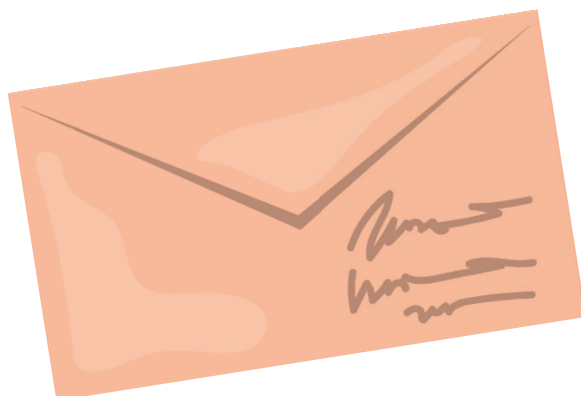
Carer's Benefit Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford

Tel: 043 334 0000

Locall: 1890 92 77 70

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/455c16-carers-benefit/>

Email: [Carersbenefit@welfare.ie](mailto:Carersbenefit@welfare.ie)





## Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is a payment to people on low incomes who are looking after a person who needs support because of age, disability or illness (including mental illness). If you qualify for Carer's Allowance you may also qualify for free household benefits (if you are living with the person you are caring for) and a Free Travel Pass.

### Rules

To be entitled to Carer's Allowance you must:

- Be living with, or in a position to provide full-time care and attention to a person in need of care who does not normally live in an institution. However, you may continue to be regarded as providing full-time care and attention if you or the person being cared for is undergoing medical or other treatment in a hospital or other institution, for a period not longer than 13 weeks.
- Be habitually resident in the State.
- Not live in a hospital, convalescent home or other similar institution.
- Be at least 18 years old and
- Not be engaged in employment, self-employment, training or education courses outside the home for more than 18.5 hours a week (increased from 15 hours to 18.5 hours in January 2020). During your absence, adequate care for the person requiring full-time care and attention must be arranged.

The person you are caring for must be:

- Over the age of 16 and so incapacitated as to require full-time care and attention or aged under 16 and getting a Domiciliary Care Allowance.
- Regarded as requiring full-time care and attention where he or she is so incapacitated as to require continuous supervision in order to avoid danger to him or herself, or continual supervision and frequent assistance throughout the day in connection with normal bodily functions, and
- So incapacitated as to be likely to require full-time care and attention for a period of at least 12 months.



## How to Apply

You should apply for Carer's Allowance as soon as possible. To apply, fill in an application form for Carer's Allowance (CR1) which is available from your Intreo Centre, Social Welfare Branch Office or Citizens Information Centre. The form includes a medical report which must be signed by the person you are caring for and by their doctor. A checklist is also included in the form which you should use to review your application before sending it in.

The application form for Carer's Allowance asks for a lot of detailed information from you. The Department of Social Protection has to work out your household income. The Department must be satisfied that you, the carer, are providing full-time care and attention and are able to do so. The Department must also examine the medical condition of the person being cared for to decide if they need full-time care and attention.

Send the completed application form to the Carer's Benefit Section:

Carer's Allowance Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford

Tel: 043 334 0000

Locall: 1890 92 77 70

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/2432ba-carers-allowance/>

Email: [Carersallowance@welfare.ie](mailto:Carersallowance@welfare.ie)



## Carer's Support Grant

The Carer's Support Grant is an annual payment made to carers by the Department of Social Protection. Carers can use the grant in whatever way they wish. You can use the grant to pay for respite care if you wish, but you do not have to do so.

In June of each year (usually on the first Thursday of the month), the Department of Social Protection pays the grant automatically to carers getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit, or Domiciliary Care Allowance from the Department. Only one Carer's Support Grant can be paid for each person getting care.

### Rules

The grant is paid automatically to people getting Carer's Allowance (whether full-rate or half-rate), Carer's Benefit or Domiciliary Care Allowance.

It can also be paid to certain other carers. To qualify, you must be:

- Aged 16 or over
- Ordinarily resident in the State
- Living with the person being cared for or, if not, be contactable quickly by a direct system of communication (for example, telephone or alarm)
- Caring for the person on a full-time basis
- Caring for the person for at least six months – this period must include the first Thursday in June
- During this six-month caring period, you cannot:
  - Work more than 18.5 hours per week outside the home
  - Take part in an education or training course for more than 18.5 hours a week
  - Get Jobseeker's Allowance or Jobseeker's Benefit
  - Sign on for credited contributions or
  - Live in a hospital, convalescent home or similar institution

If you are caring for more than one person, a grant is paid for each of them.



# ENTITLEMENTS FOR THE CARERS OF HEART FAILURE PATIENTS



## How to Apply:

If you are getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or Domiciliary Care Allowance, you do not need to apply for the Carer's Support Grant. It will be automatically paid to you in June. If you are not getting one of the above payments, you should fill in an application form CSG 1 in respect of each person you are caring for. Send the completed application form to:

Carer's Support Grant Section  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford  
N39 E4EO

Tel: 043 334 0000

Locall: 1890 927 770

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/16220307-carers-support-grant/>

Email: [Respitecare@welfare.ie](mailto:Respitecare@welfare.ie)



# Irish Heart Foundation - Patient Support Services

Our nurses are available for phone and email support Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. You can contact them by calling 01 6685001 or emailing [support@irishheart.ie](mailto:support@irishheart.ie).

We have monthly information and support sessions for people living with heart failure covering topics such as self-management, diet, exercise, medications, and mental health. For more information, email [heartfailure@irishheart.ie](mailto:heartfailure@irishheart.ie).

Heart Support Network – a private Facebook group for people with heart failure and other heart conditions and their carers.

You can find further information on [www.irishheart.ie](http://www.irishheart.ie) or phone us on 016685001 if you would like to chat about what is available for you.





# Irish Heart Foundation

Irish Heart Foundation,  
17-19 Rathmines Road Lower  
Dublin  
D06 C780

01 668 5001  
info@irishheart.ie  
www.irishheart.ie

Company registration number: 23434  
CHY (Revenue) number: 5507  
Registered charity number: 20008376

