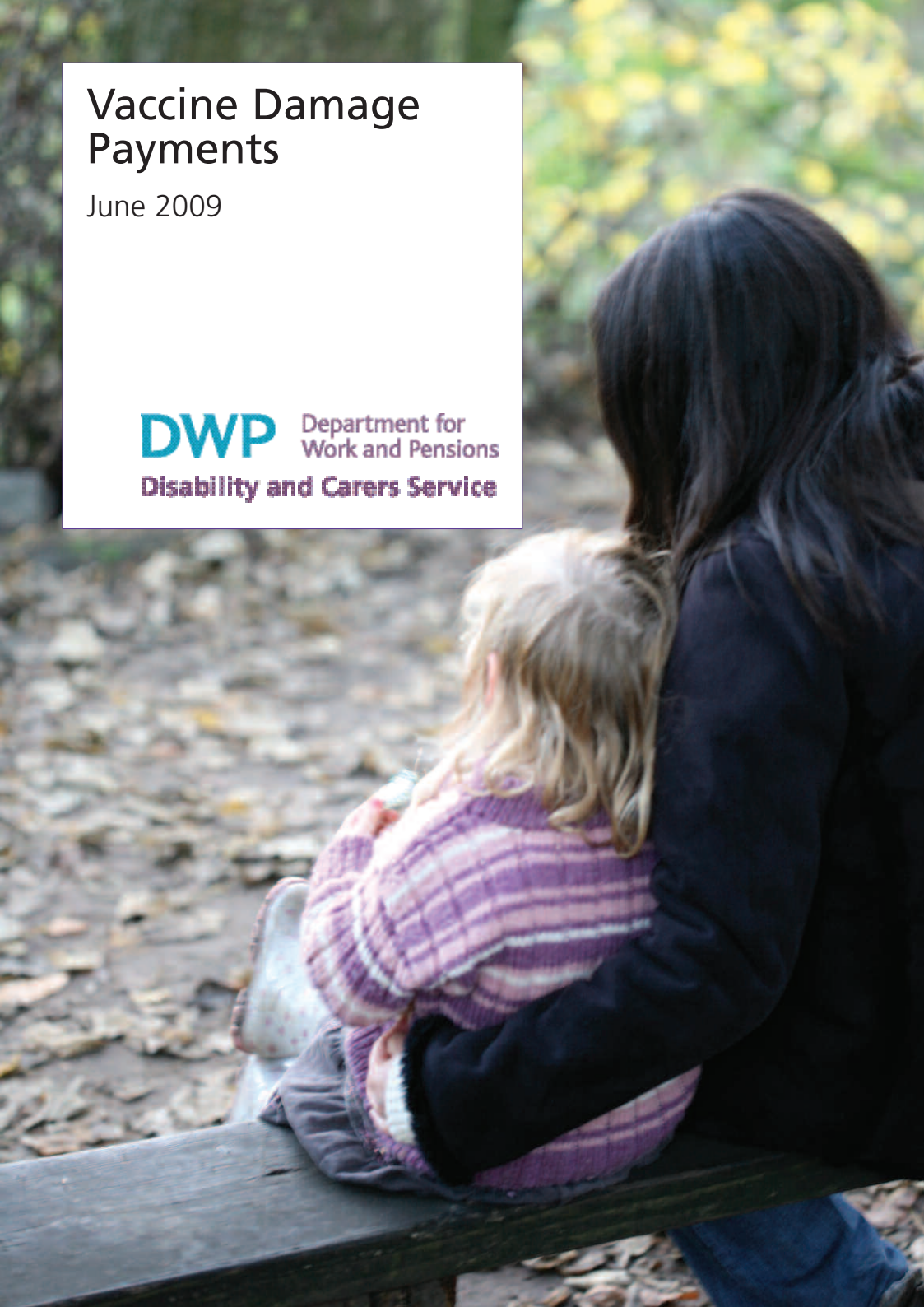


# Vaccine Damage Payments

June 2009

**DWP** Department for  
Work and Pensions  
Disability and Carers Service



## Important information about this leaflet

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure the leaflet is correct as of June 2009. Some of the information may be oversimplified or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

Call us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday on:

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Telephone **01772 89 99 44** Textphone **01772 56 22 02**

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Visit us on the web at:

[www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp)

## What is a Vaccine Damage Payment?

If you are severely disabled as a result of a vaccination, you may be able to get a Vaccine Damage Payment.

This is a one-off, tax-free payment to help with extra costs you may face.

Not all vaccinations are covered.

It doesn't matter if you have savings or other money coming in, you can still get a Vaccine Damage Payment.

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# Which vaccinations are covered?

You may be able to get a Vaccine Damage Payment if you are severely disabled as a result of being vaccinated for any of the following diseases:

- Diphtheria;
- Tetanus;
- Whooping cough (pertussis);
- Polio;
- Measles;
- Mumps;
- German measles (rubella);
- TB (tuberculosis);
- Smallpox (up to 1 August 1971);
- HIB (Haemophilus Influenzae type B);
- Meningitis C;
- Pneumococcal infection;
- Human papillomavirus (HPV).

Mixed vaccinations may count too, such as:

- DTP - diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; or
- MMR - measles, mumps and rubella.

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You may also get a Vaccine Damage Payment if you have a severe disability caused by:

- your mother having any of these vaccinations while she was pregnant with you; or
- being physically close to someone who was given a polio vaccination by mouth.

If you are not sure, please ask us.

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## Who can get a Vaccine Damage Payment?

If you are severely disabled as a result of having one or more of the vaccinations listed on page 5 when you were under 18, you can claim.

You can also claim if you are severely disabled as a result of having a vaccination for polio, rubella, meningitis C or Human papillomavirus (HPV) when you were over 18.

If you or your family are in the Armed Forces, you can claim if you are severely disabled as a result of any of these vaccinations given to you as part of Armed Forces medical treatment while you were abroad.

If the person who had the vaccination has died, you can still make a claim for them.

You must have had the vaccination in the United Kingdom, or the Isle of Man, or as part of Armed Forces medical treatment while you were abroad.

Even if you have moved abroad, you may still be able to get a Vaccine Damage Payment.

If you are not sure, please ask us.

Visit us on the web at:

[www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp)

## What does 'severely disabled' mean?

We work out disability as a percentage. Being 'severely disabled' means someone is 60 per cent or more disabled. This could be a physical or mental disability. For example, if you completely lost your sight or hearing, we would class you as being 100 per cent disabled.

## When do I claim?

You should claim as soon as you can.

You must do this:

- no later than your 21st birthday; or
- within six years of the date you had the vaccination if you are over the age of 21.

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## Can I claim a Vaccine Damage Payment for someone else?

Yes.

As a parent, guardian or representative, you can claim for a person if they are:

- between two and 21 years old; or
- over the age of 21, but had the vaccination within the last six years.

If the person has died, you can still make a claim for them if they were over the age of two when they died and you do it:

- before the date they would have had their 21st birthday; or
- within six years of them having the vaccination.

Visit us on the web at:

[www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp)

## How much is a Vaccine Damage Payment?

A Vaccine Damage Payment is a one-off payment of £120,000. You do not have to pay tax on this money.

## Who is a Vaccine Damage Payment paid to?

If you are over 18 and can manage your own money, the Vaccine Damage Payment will be paid to you.

For people who are under 18 or unable to manage their own money, the Vaccine Damage Payment will be paid to trustees acting on their behalf.

Parents can act as trustees.

If the disabled person has died, the person acting for them will receive the payment.

Call us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday on:

Telephone **01772 89 99 44** Textphone **01772 56 22 02**

## How do I claim a Vaccine Damage Payment or find out more information?

To claim a Vaccine Damage Payment, you need to fill in a claim form.

There are a number of ways you can contact us to get a claim form or find out more.

### **By phone**

You can call the Vaccine Damage Payment Unit on:

- 01772 89 99 44 (phone); or
- 01772 56 22 02 (textphone).

Lines are open from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday.

Visit us on the web at:

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[www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp)

## **Textphones**

Our textphone numbers are for people who cannot speak or hear clearly. If you don't have a textphone, you could check if your local library or citizens advice bureau has one. Textphones don't receive text messages from mobile phones.

You can also call using RNID Typetalk.

When you ring us, the person who takes your call can only give advice. This advice is not the same as a decision about a claim.

## **Call charges**

Charges were correct as of the date on the back of this leaflet.

Calls to **0800** numbers are free from BT land lines but you may have to pay if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls to **0845** numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 4p per minute with a 3p call set up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone, or if you call from abroad.

Calls from mobile phones can cost up to 40p per minute, so check the cost of calls with your service provider.

Call us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday on:

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## Online

Visit [www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp) for general advice or [www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdpclaim](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdpclaim) to obtain a claim form.

You can e-mail us at [CAU-VDPU@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CAU-VDPU@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

## In writing

You can write to the Vaccine Damage Payment Unit at:

Vaccine Damage Payments Unit  
Palatine House  
Lancaster Road  
Preston  
PR1 1HB

Visit us on the web at:

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[www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp)

## **Other formats**

This leaflet also comes:

- in Welsh
- in large print
- in Braille
- on audio tape
- on audio CD

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## Find out more online:

### Directgov

If you are disabled or caring for someone, visit Directgov now for information covering financial support, rights, employment, independent living and much more.

Directgov has the widest range of online government information for the public.

[www.direct.gov.uk/disability](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability)

[www.direct.gov.uk/carers](http://www.direct.gov.uk/carers)

Visit us on the web at:

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[www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability-vdp)

ISBN: 978-1-84947-051-3

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Produced by the Disability and Carers Service,  
part of the Department for Work and Pensions.

**VACDPA5DCS** June 2009

