

Possible entitlements for people with epilepsy in Scotland

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Introduction

This fact sheet aims to provide an overview of entitlements that may be available for people with epilepsy in Scotland. Apart from Access to Work, all the information relates to both children and adults.

Free prescriptions

If you have epilepsy and take daily anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs), you are entitled to free prescriptions. This is for all your prescription drugs, not just your AEDs.

How to apply for an exemption certificate

Ask for application form EC92A from your doctor's surgery. You need to fill in parts 1 and 2. Your doctor, or a member of your GP practice staff, will sign to show that the information you've given is correct. They will then send off the completed form applying for your exemption certificate.

Reclaiming prescription costs

If you don't have your exemption certificate, you will have to pay for your prescriptions. You will be able to claim the money back, when your exemption certificate arrives. To do this, you will need to get receipt form HCS(R) from the pharmacist at the time you pay for the prescription. Information on the HCS(R) tells you how to claim your money back.

The Disabled Persons Railcard

If you have epilepsy and take anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) you can apply for a Disabled Persons Railcard, if you either:

- still have seizures even though you take epilepsy medicine; or
- you don't qualify for a driving licence because of your epilepsy.

You will need to pay for this, but it will save you money if you regularly travel by train. The railcard will give you a discount of up to a third on a range of adult priced rail tickets. A person travelling with you will get the same discount as you.

Children aged from five to 15 years can qualify for a Disabled Persons Railcard. The child named on the railcard will pay the normal child's fare. An adult travelling with them can then claim a discount of one third off their own fare.

You can get an application form for a Disabled Persons Railcard from some railway stations. You can also get one online at www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk, by telephoning Rail Travel Made Easy on 0845 605 0525, or from Epilepsy Action.

Free bus fares – adults

If you have epilepsy, and would be refused a driving licence because of your seizures, you will qualify for free bus travel. To get free bus travel, you will need to apply for a National Entitlement Card. This card will allow you travel free on any local bus and scheduled long distance coach services in Scotland throughout the day. This includes the morning rush hour.

To apply for a National Entitlement Card you need to complete form NCT003 from your local authority. The telephone number will be in your Phone Book. Your hospital consultant, GP, or epilepsy specialist nurse will need to sign form NCT003, and return it to the address on the form.

You may also qualify for a National Entitlement Card even if you are eligible to drive. This is as long as you are entitled to:

- higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA); or
- higher or middle rate of the care component of DLA; or
- a Disabled Persons Parking Badge (Blue Badge).

Free bus fares – children

Children with epilepsy between the ages of five and 16 will qualify for free bus passes if they get:

- higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA); or
- higher or middle rate of the care component of DLA; or
- hold a Disabled Person's Parking Badge (Blue Badge).

Producing proof of eligibility – adults and children

If you are applying because you get DLA or have a Blue Badge, you will need the following proof to show that you are eligible for a free bus pass.

- DLA – You will need a letter from the Department of Work and Pensions (normally a DBD384) confirming that you get DLA.
- Blue Badge – You will need either the latest VII vehicle licensing reminder from DVLA showing the disabled taxation class, or proof that you receive the higher rate of the mobility component of DLA.

More information about the Scotland-wide free bus travel scheme is available at www.transportscotland.gov.uk

Access to work

Access to Work might pay towards any equipment you need at work or to alter your workplace to meet your needs. It can also pay for the cost of a support worker or towards the cost of getting to work, if you cannot use public transport. You can get further information from your local Jobcentre Plus. Their telephone number will be in your Phone Book.

Welfare benefits

If your epilepsy is difficult to control and/or you have other disabilities, you may be entitled to Disability Living Allowance (DLA). If you are over the age of 65 you may be entitled to Attendance Allowance (AA).

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

DLA is awarded to children and to adults aged 64 or under, who have care needs and/or mobility needs. Here are some reasons why you may qualify for DLA if you have epilepsy.

Care needs

- You need someone to keep an eye on you during the day or night, to make sure that you are safe.
- You need to have help from someone through the night to help you during, or after, a seizure.
- You are unable to safely cook yourself a meal.
- Mobility needs
- You need someone with you when you are in an unfamiliar place, to guide or help you.

DLA is paid at different rates depending on how your epilepsy affects you. To qualify, you must have needed help for at least three months. You should need this help for at least another six months.

DLA is tax-free and isn't affected by any other income or savings you have. It's paid on top of any other earnings or income.

Attendance Allowance (AA)

This benefit is similar to the care component of Disability Living Allowance. It is awarded to adults aged 65 and over, who have care needs. It's paid at different rates depending on how your epilepsy affects you.

AA is tax-free and isn't affected by any other income or savings you have.

Organisations who can offer more advice or information

The following organisations can provide more information about welfare benefits, filling in forms, and possibly help with appeals.

Benefits Agency
Telephone: 0800 44 11 44

Citizens Advice Bureau
For details of your local branch,
telephone: 020 7833 2181
www.adviceguide.org.uk

Dial UK (Disability Information and
Advice Line Services)
Telephone: 01302 310 123
www.dialuk.org.uk

Disability Alliance
Telephone: 020 7247 8776
www.disabilityalliance.org

About this publication

This fact sheet is written by Epilepsy Action's advice and information team, with guidance and input from people living with epilepsy, and legal experts. If you would like to know where our information is from, or there is anything you would like to say about the fact sheet, please contact us.

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