

Review Periods

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This chapter covers the following topics:

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- What are review periods?
- Choosing an appropriate review period

Introduction

1. This chapter covers the topic of setting review periods for existing Child Disability Payment (CDP) awards.
2. Case managers should read this chapter together with the Principles of Decision-Making chapter. It sets out the principles and the legal context that underpin decision making in the Scottish social security system.
3. This chapter also relates to the Scheduled Reviews and Unscheduled Reviews and Determinations without Applications chapters.

What are review periods?

4. The case manager must set a new review period when making a determination without application. This is part of a scheduled or unscheduled review.
5. The case manager should choose a shorter review period if it is either:
 - likely that the individual's disability might change soon
 - unclear whether their disability might change.
6. The case manager should choose a longer review period if either it is likely that the individual's disability:
 - will change very slowly
 - will not change.
7. Generally, review periods should be at least 24 months long. This is to avoid the individual having to undergo unnecessary reviews.

Choosing an appropriate review period

8. A review period of 24 months should be chosen when it is highly likely that the individual's disability will change in the near future. This might be due to, for example:

- the individual becoming able to manage their condition more independently
- the individual's condition improving
- treatment being expected to reduce the impact of the individual's disability.

Example: an individual's award of CDP will be reviewed in 24 months

Kinjal is 12 years old and was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis five months ago. The case manager determines that she is entitled to the:

- middle rate of the care component
- higher rate of the mobility component.

Kinjal is currently receiving non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication. She will soon start a new treatment which is more effective with the potential for her to feel less pain. The case manager determines that a review should take place in two years. This is because there is a possibility of Kinjal's level of disability changing due to the new treatment for her arthritis.

9. Case managers can set review periods of less than 24 months when it is clear that the individual's disability will change sooner. Case managers should consider the information in the application form and the supporting information to:

- understand the individual's prognosis
- decide if a short review period is appropriate.

For example, this could include information on scheduled treatments.

10. Case managers may set a review period under 24 months when the individual's disability is likely to change significantly. For example, this could be due to:

- scheduled surgery planned beyond the longest possible time period for delaying a review
- scheduled, staged corrective surgery
- the individual recently starting new treatment likely to have a significant impact on their needs
- the individual soon completing treatment likely to have a significant impact on their needs
- it being difficult or impossible to anticipate how the individual's needs will develop between 26 weeks and 24 months from now. This could be due to a degenerative condition where the individual's needs are expected to increase but the pace of change is unclear.
- the individual soon beginning a new phase in their life likely to have a significant impact on their needs.

This list is not exhaustive.

Example: a case manager sets a review period of less than 24 months

Sarah, who is 3 months old, was born with a cleft lip and palate. Her parents have to feed her through a tube in her nose as breastfeeding is not possible. She has also developed glue ear which is being treated with grommets that help clear Sarah's ears of fluid.

Her parents apply for CDP on Sarah's behalf.

When reviewing the application, the case manager learns from Sarah's treatment plan that she has surgery:

- on her lip scheduled for the age of 6 months
- to close her cleft palate at the age of 12 months.

They also read in the supporting information that Sarah's grommets are expected to fall out between 6 to 12 months of age.

The case manager:

- expects a change in Sarah's disability
- decides to set a review date 12 months from now.

At the review, the case manager will better understand how Sarah's disability has changed after she has recovered from her operation.

11. The case manager should select a review period between 24 months and five years if the individual is likely to experience change in their level of disability.

Example: a case manager sets a review period of 4 years

Vijay is 8 years old and has just been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes.

His mother and father are:

- doing finger prick blood tests several times a day to check his blood glucose levels
- closely monitoring his eating
- making changes towards a more healthy and active lifestyle for him.

Vijay is both:

- struggling with the diagnosis
- confused and frightened by the changes in his life.

This leads to regular conflicts with Vijay.

The case manager:

- reviews Vijay's CDP application

- speaks with Vijay’s mother
- consults the medical guidance
- has a case discussion with a practitioner

to fully understand how Vijay’s needs might develop in the near future.

Based on the findings, the case manager expects Vijay to:

- adapt to his disability over the next few years
- be able to manage his condition with minimal input from his parents around the age of 12 years.

The case manager therefore decides to set a review period of 4 years as they think this is an appropriate review period for Vijay.

12. If an individual’s disability is unlikely to change the case manager should select a review period of between five and ten years.

Example: an individual’s award of CDP will be reviewed in eight years

Ivy is six and has Down’s Syndrome. The case manager determines that she is entitled to the:

- middle rate of the care component
- lower rate of the mobility component.

The case manager expects that:

- Ivy’s disability will change as she gets older and develops further
- the level of overall support Ivy needs is unlikely to change.

For this reason, the case manager determines that Ivy’s award of CDP will be reviewed in eight years when she is 14 years old.

Example: an individual’s award of CDP will be reviewed in ten years

Robin has congenital optic nerve hypoplasia. Both of Robin’s eyes are affected by his condition. He wears glasses and uses large text books and is given more time at school to complete tasks. Robin also has development delay with speech but is receiving speech therapy and this is slowly improving.

Robin’s mother applies for CDP when he turns five. The case manager determines that he is entitled to the:

- middle rate of the care component
- lower rate of the mobility component.

The case manager:

- understands that there is no treatment available for this condition

- the condition remains fairly stable over time
- with age, Robin is likely to slowly become more independent and require less support.

The case manager therefore sets the end of review period of Robin's CDP award in 10 years from now when he is 15 years old.

13. The individual's entitlement will be reviewed when they transition to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or any disability assistance for working age people which replaces PIP. They might be eligible for an indefinite award once they receive that assistance. These cases are exceptional. The case manager should only select this option if they are certain that the level of need is highly unlikely to change. It does not matter which rate of either component of CDP the individual is entitled to.

Example: a case manager sets the review date to the individual's transition to PIP

Roisin, who is 10 years old, had a spinal injury which has caused her to experience paralysis of her arms and legs. Her father applies for CDP on her behalf. After reviewing her application, the case manager decides to award Roisin the:

- higher rate mobility component
- highest rate care component.

Based on Roisin's prognosis, they do not expect her needs to change. The case manager therefore decides to not set a review date, so Roisin's entitlement will be reviewed when she transitions to PIP upon reaching age 18.

14. There is more information about individuals entitled to CDP beyond their 18th birthday in the Individuals 16 to 18 Years Old chapter .