

Government Disability Living Allowance Medical Examinations Policy Summary of proposed review

- The government will introduce a medical test for people claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) from 2013/14
- You will have to take the test whether you are a new or existing claimant
- The test will replace the current application forms, where an applicant does not need to have a face-to-face assessment
- It will be similar to the Work Capability Assessment, which was introduced last year for Employment and Support Allowance; however we do not know yet exactly what form it will take
- The system will be gradually introduced for existing claimants over 3 years from 2013
- The clear intention of the government is to reduce expenditure on welfare benefits, which suggests that some of current claimants are likely to lose their entitlement

Positive East recognises that this will concern many people living with HIV/AIDS who receive DLA, and particularly those who have had a DLA review in the past two years.

We believe that the Government is going to implement this policy. This means that the best approach for us is to inform and influence the process that will be used to make decisions. To this regard, Positive East will be making presentations to the Department for Work & Pensions highlighting difficulties faced by our client group who receive this benefit. We will be advocating for the involvement of HIV Health Practitioners and a wider range of HIV charities in the designing and implementation of the whole process and practice.

We will also be bringing to their attention weaknesses with the current medical examinations practice, based on our experience of successful appeals on behalf of clients who have gone through the process

If you have any queries, contact Positive East Advice and Helpline, contact advice@positiveeast.org.uk or telephone 020 7791 2855.

Date produced: 24th June 2010

Author: Advice services, Positive East