

Health in Pregnancy Grant

Information for Midwives and Doctors

What is the Health in Pregnancy Grant?

- Health in Pregnancy Grant, administered by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is a payment available to pregnant women between the 25th week of pregnancy and their expected date of delivery. Payment of the grant does not depend on the amount of household income
- The grant is expected to be £190 and is tax free. It will not affect payments of tax credits and other benefits
- Health in Pregnancy Grant aims to provide flexible financial help to support the general health and well-being of women in the later stages of pregnancy, and to help them to meet wider costs in the run up to the birth
- The grant is paid as a one-off lump sum and payment will start from 6th April 2009. The mother may choose what she spends it on – taking into account any advice from her midwife

How is the grant obtained?

Midwives and doctors are able to order a supply of claim forms by calling 0845 302 1430. Only one person per team should place an order for the forms and the forms should be stored securely. Claim forms will be sent out in packs of 10

From 25 weeks, a practising midwife or doctor can sign the form to confirm the woman is pregnant and that appropriate maternal health advice has been given

Once the form is signed, it is the pregnant woman's responsibility to post the form, and ensure the HMRC receive it within 31 days of the form being signed by a midwife/doctor

A decision letter will be sent to the woman within three weeks, and the grant will be paid within a further seven days

Does anything need to be sent with the claim form?

No. HMRC will not usually require any additional information to be sent with the claim form.

How long will it take before a decision is made on the claim?

Once we receive a fully completed claim form we aim to give a decision in three weeks in most cases.

Eligible pregnant women (whose expected delivery date is on or after 6th April 2009) sending claims before April 2009 should wait until the end of April 2009 before following up claims.

When will payment be made?

Payment will be made within seven days of the date of the letter telling the customer of the award of Health in Pregnancy Grant.

Do pregnant women need to complete all the questions on the claim form, even if they don't seem to apply to them?

Yes, if questions are not answered payment might be delayed as HMRC may need to contact the customer to obtain the missing information.

Only the section headed 'Expectant mother unable to claim' will be left blank in most cases as this part is only to be completed where an appointee is claiming on behalf of the customer. Appointee cases are expected to be very rare.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Who can get it?

Pregnant women whose expected delivery date is on or after 6th April 2009 and are ordinarily resident in the UK will be entitled to the grant, providing they are not subject to immigration control.

Is it paid for each baby or pregnancy?

Health in Pregnancy Grant is payable for each pregnancy, not for each baby, for example if twins are expected only one grant of £190 is payable.

Why do we need to know the number of expected babies if the grant is paid only once for each pregnancy?

We may wish to share this information with the Department for Work and Pensions to help them deal with claims to Sure Start Maternity Grant in the future.

What happens if the pregnant woman requests a Welsh claim form?

Supplies of Welsh claim forms will be made available to health professionals for any Welsh speaking customers.

What if the pregnant woman has special needs and requires a claim form in other formats such as large print and Braille?

A claim form in the required format will be available by calling a helpline which will be available by January 2009.

Why do we need a contact number for the health professional?

Sometimes it may be necessary to contact the midwife or doctor who signed the declaration to confirm the pregnant woman's details. We don't expect we will need to do this very often.

What happens if the pregnant woman doesn't have a bank account?

Payment is made straight into a bank or building society. If the woman does not already have an account and cannot open one to receive payment of Health in Pregnancy Grant, they should contact the helpline which will be available by January 2009.

If the customer puts a cross in the box at part 16 of the claim form to state that they do not have an account, this will result in a delay in payment and the woman will be contacted by HMRC.

In exceptional circumstances, we will send a cashcheque payment to the customer's home address.

Does a pregnant woman who has recently come from abroad need to know any additional information?

No. We should be advising those who have recently come from abroad that if they do not know their immigration status to contact the helpline, which will be available by January 2009.

What is 'appropriate' maternal health advice?

This is the normal advice midwives give to pregnant women to help them and their unborn baby stay healthy during pregnancy.

What happens if the pregnant woman doesn't have a National Insurance number or can't find their National Insurance number?

The law says that the customer must provide a valid National Insurance number (NINO), or that they have provided the

necessary evidence in order for a NINO to be issued, before Health in Pregnancy Grant can be paid.

However, a pregnant woman should not delay in sending in the form even if she can't find the number. The pregnant woman should leave the box blank at part 8 of the claim form and send it without delay as there is a 31 days time limit for claiming.

If all other conditions of entitlement are satisfied HMRC will inform the customer how to obtain a NINO if one can't be traced.

What if the pregnant woman is under age 16?

There is no minimum age to claim Health in Pregnancy Grant. Customers under age 16 should complete their own claim forms unless they are physically or mentally unable to claim themselves. A parent of the pregnant woman cannot claim on their daughter's behalf just because they are under age 16.

Customers under age 16 do not usually need to have a NINO to receive Health in Pregnancy Grant, but they may be asked to provide other information, for example their birth certificate.

What happens if an appointee wants to claim on behalf of the pregnant woman?

Customers, including those under age 16, must claim for themselves unless they are physically or mentally unable to do so.

Only a legally appointed representative can apply on behalf of a pregnant woman. The appointee process can take some time to set up and can lead to a delay in payment.

If the pregnant woman damages or loses their claim form can they ask their health professional for another one?

Yes. The original form, if damaged, should be destroyed. The health professional should complete a further declaration on a new form and date it as the current date.

If the pregnant woman has kept the claim form for more than 31 days should they send it in late or ask their health professional for another one?

Providing the expected date of delivery is still a future date the original claim form should be destroyed and the health professional should complete a new declaration dated with today's date. If that is not practicable the claim form should be sent in.

If the expected date of delivery is a past date or the baby has already been born it is not possible for a further declaration to be signed. If the original claim is sent to us it may be disallowed.

Can more than one claim form be enclosed in the reply envelope for posting to HM Revenue & Customs?

We prefer not to have more than one claim form in each envelope as this may delay payment because the claims may then be unable to be read by a machine.

What should a midwife or GP do if claim forms are lost, stolen or damaged?

If any claim forms are lost, stolen, missing or damaged please ring the HMRC helpline to cancel the forms.

For further information, please visit
www.direct.gov.uk/money4mum2be
or call the helpline on 0845 366 7885

