

Maternity Allowance

jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

Notes sheet

- **Help if you are expecting a baby and you**
 - have been employed but cannot get Statutory Maternity Pay, or
 - are self employed, or
 - have been employed recently.

Please keep these notes for your information.

These notes give general guidance only and should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law.

What is Maternity Allowance

Maternity Allowance (MA) is a social security benefit that you may be able to get around the time your baby is due. It is paid every 2 weeks or every 4 weeks in arrears, and is paid for a period of up to **39 weeks**. The period we pay MA for is called the **Maternity Allowance Period (MAP)**.

Who can get Maternity Allowance

You may be able to get Maternity Allowance (MA) if

- **you are not entitled to Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) from any of your employers,**

You may not be able to get Statutory Maternity Pay because

- you were not employed in the 15th week before the week your baby is due, or
- you have not been employed by the same employer for long enough, or
- you have not been earning enough.

Your employer will give you a form **SMP1** which says why you cannot get SMP. If you have more than one employer, send us an **SMP1** from each employer.

and

- **you have been employed or self-employed for at least 26 weeks in the 66 weeks before the week you expect to have your baby,**

The 66 weeks before the week you expect to have your baby is known as your **Test Period**. We work out your test period from the date your baby is due, not the actual date of birth.

We count employment for part of a week as employment for a whole week.

Who can get Maternity Allowance continued

and

- **your average gross weekly earnings are at least £30 a week, and**
- **you have stopped work to have your baby.**

If you are employed, we may check the information you have given us with your employer.

If you are self-employed, you are required by law to register your self-employment with HM Revenue & Customs according to HM Revenue & Customs rules.

If you do not register or register late, you may lose some or all of your MA

By *employer* we mean the person or organisation who pays the employer's share of Class 1 National Insurance (NI) contributions. We still call them an employer, even if they don't pay Class 1 NI contributions because of an employee's age or level of earnings.

We call you *employed* even if you are an agency worker, if

- you pay Class 1 NI contributions on your earnings, or
- you would pay Class 1 NI contributions, but you do not because of your age or level of earnings.

To find out more about your gross weekly earnings, see

- **pages 7 and 8** if you are employed, or
- **pages 8 and 9** if you are self-employed.

You do not have to be a UK citizen to get MA.

If you have worked, you may be able to get MA.

When to claim Maternity Allowance

The earliest you can claim is at the start of the 14th week before the week your baby is due.

Even if you are still working, claim as soon as you can after the start of the 14th week before the week your baby is due. We will contact you later to find out the date when you stop work.

Do not sign and date the **MA1** claim form earlier than the 14th week before the week your baby is due.

If your baby is born early

Claim straight away after your baby is born. Your test period will not change.

Time limit for claims

You must claim within 3 months of the date your Maternity Allowance Period is due to start. If you delay, you will lose money.

Your expected date of childbirth

- **If you are claiming before your baby is born**
This date is in **Part A** of your **Maternity Certificate MAT B1**. Childbirth is called *confinement* on the certificate. You can get this certificate from your doctor or midwife from the 21st week of your pregnancy.
- **If you are claiming after your baby is born**
Send us your **MAT B1** completed at **Part B**.
If Part A has not been completed, you must send us your baby's birth certificate.
- **If your baby was stillborn**
Please send in the notification of stillbirth issued by the attending midwife or doctor or the certificate of stillbirth issued by the registrar.

When we pay Maternity Allowance

Your **Maternity Allowance Period (MAP)** will start on the Sunday of the 11th week before the week you expect to have your baby, if you are not employed or self employed at this time.

If you are still employed or self-employed on or after the 11th week before the week you expect to have your baby

You can choose when you want your MA to start. You can choose any day after you have stopped work to have your baby. This means that your MA can start from the first day of your maternity leave.

You can also choose to start your MA later than the date your maternity leave starts. But the latest date your MA can start is the day after the birth of your baby.

If you are getting SSP from your employer, your SSP must stop when your MA starts. **You must tell your employer the date that your MAP will start.**

If you give birth earlier than expected

If you give birth earlier than expected and your MA has not yet started, you **must** tell Jobcentre Plus straight away. This is because your MA will start automatically on the day after the birth.

If you give birth to a stillborn child

If your baby is stillborn from the start of the 24th week of pregnancy you must tell Jobcentre Plus straight away. This is because MA will start the day after the birth.

When we pay Maternity Allowance continued

If you are off work because of your pregnancy on or after the 4th week before the week your baby is due

Your MA **must start** if you are on maternity leave on or after the 4th week before the week your baby is due. Your MA will start automatically on the day after the first day you are absent from work for this reason in this 4 week period.

If you are off sick just before you get MA

Your MA **must start** if you are sick and absent from work because of your pregnancy at any time in the 4 weeks before the week your baby is due.

Your MA will start automatically on the day after the first day you are sick and absent from work for this reason in this 4 week period.

If you were getting any Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit, it will stop.

If you and your employer disagree about whether you are sick because of your pregnancy, get in touch with Jobcentre Plus.

How we work out how much Maternity Allowance you get

We use the **earnings rule** to work out your Maternity Allowance.

If you are employed

The earnings rule means that you must earn at least £30 a week on average. We average your gross earnings over any 13 weeks in your **Test Period**. The 13 weeks do not have to be in a row.

By *gross earnings*, we mean the amount of money your employer pays you before anything is taken off. For example, income tax or National Insurance contributions.

To work out your average gross weekly earnings, we will add together your gross earnings from each of the 13 weeks in which you earned the most. We then divide the total by 13.

We need to see original payslips for the 13 weeks you choose. Send in your weekly payslips or, if you are not paid weekly, send us payslips covering at least the 13 weeks in which you earned the most in your Test Period. For example, if you are paid monthly, send us at least 4 months' payslips and we will work out how much you earn each week.

If you had more than one job in any of the weeks you have chosen, send us the payslips from all the jobs. We will return them to you.

If you do not have your original payslips you can ask your employer to give you copies of them, or you can ask for a statement from your employer to cover your chosen weeks.

The amount of Maternity Allowance you get will be either the standard rate of MA or 90% of your average gross weekly earnings. You will get the amount which is the lower of the two.

How we work out how much Maternity Allowance you get continued

If you are self-employed

If you are self-employed you are required by law to register as self-employed with HM Revenue & Customs. If you do not register, or register late, you may lose some or all of your entitlement to Maternity Allowance.

If you

- are registered as self-employed, and
 - have paid Class 2 National Insurance contributions, and
 - do not hold a Small Earnings Exception certificate
- you will be treated as having enough weekly earnings to result in the standard rate of MA for any week covered by that Class 2 National Insurance contribution.

If you are registered as self-employed and hold a Small Earnings Exception certificate, you will be treated as having earnings of £30 at the end of each week covered by the certificate. This applies even if you have paid a Class 2 National Insurance contribution for a week covered by the certificate.

If you have been registered as self-employed for at least 26 weeks in your test period, you may not qualify for MA unless

- you have paid Class 2 National Insurance contributions in your test period, or
- you have held a Small Earnings Exception certificate for at least 13 weeks in your test period.

If you have worked abroad

Maternity Allowance is based on employment and earnings in the UK. If you have not worked or earned enough in the UK to get Maternity Allowance, but have worked abroad in certain countries, we may be able to take that work into account.

For more information about the countries we can consider, go to

www.gov.uk/international-pension-centre

What happens after you claim

We can make a decision about your Maternity Allowance claim more quickly if you

- answer all the questions on the claim form that apply to you, and
- send us all the documents we ask for.

If you cannot do this, get in touch with us. We will write to tell you the result of your claim as soon as we can.

If you are not entitled to MA

We will write to tell you the reason. We will also check to see if you can get Employment and Support Allowance. To find out more, ask for a leaflet from Jobcentre Plus. Or you can visit www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

More information and other help

Maternity Allowance

There is more information about this in **NI17A** *A guide to Maternity Benefits*. You can find the guide at www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

Working while getting MA

You are allowed to work for up to 10 days during your MAP without losing MA payments. These are called *Keeping in Touch days*. You can find out more about this in guide **NI17A**. You can also ask Jobcentre Plus.

You must tell Jobcentre Plus of any work you do while you get MA.

More information and other help

If you are going abroad or have been abroad

We use *abroad* to mean any country outside the United Kingdom (UK). The UK is Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including any territorial waters next to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The UK does not include the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

The UK has special arrangements with certain other countries that may help you to get MA if you are going abroad or if you have recently been abroad and returned to the UK.

You can find out more by contacting:

International Pension Centre
Department for Work and Pensions
Tyneview Park
Benton
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE98 1BA

Phone: 0191 218 7082 (or 44 191 218 7082 when calling from abroad)

Fax: 0191 218 7147

E-mail:

typ.internationalqueries@thepensionsservice.gsi.gov.uk

Or you can find out more at

www.gov.uk/international-pensions-centre

Child Benefit

You can claim this benefit when your baby is born. To find out more about Child Benefit visit **www.gov.uk/child-benefit**

More information and other help continued

Sure Start Maternity Grant

You may be able to get a Sure Start Maternity Grant if you or your partner are getting

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit at a rate higher than the family element, or
- Working Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element.

You can get the claim form **SF100** *Sure Start Maternity Grant from the Social Fund* from your ante-natal clinic or Jobcentre Plus.

Working Tax Credit

This is a payment to top up the earnings of working people with a low income. You usually need to be working a minimum number of hours a week to claim Working Tax Credit.

If you are aged 16 or over, you can claim Working Tax Credit if you work at least 16 hours a week and

- you qualify for a disability element, or
- you or your partner are aged 60 or over, or
- you are single and are responsible for a child or qualifying young person.

If you are part of a couple and are responsible for a child or qualifying young person, you can claim Working Tax Credit if

- you and your partner work at least 24 hours a week between you, with one of you working at least 16 hours a week, or
- you or your partner work at least 16 hours a week when the other partner is incapacitated, in hospital or in prison, or
- you or your partner work at least 16 hours a week and are disabled or aged 60 or over.

More information and other help continued

If you do not have children, are not entitled to the disability element or are not over 60, you can claim Working Tax Credit if:

- you are aged 25 or over, and
- you work at least 30 hours a week.

Working Tax Credit is available to self-employed people and employees.

Child Tax Credit

Maternity Allowance does not include money for children or qualifying young persons. But you can claim Child Tax Credit instead.

We use 'child' to mean a person aged under 16 who you are getting Child Benefit for.

We use 'qualifying young person' to mean a person aged 16, 17, 18 or 19 who you are getting Child Benefit for.

To claim tax credits

To claim tax credits, you have to fill in a claim form. You can only get a Tax Credits claim pack from the Tax Credit helpline. You can't claim online.

Phone the Tax Credit helpline on **0345 300 3900**.

If you have speech or hearing difficulties, you can contact the helpline using a textphone on **0345 300 3909**.

If you need help or a form in Welsh, please phone **0345 302 1489**.

Lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 4pm on Saturday. Lines are closed Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Maternity leave and employment rights

If you are an employee, you are entitled to take time off work to have your baby. You also have other employment rights. To find out more about maternity leave and employment rights visit

www.gov.uk/employee-rights-when-on-leave

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Test Period table from 2013 to 2017

Your claim to Maternity Allowance (MA) will be decided on the work you have done in your *Test Period*. This is the 66 weeks up to, and including, the Saturday before the week you expect to have your baby.

Find the week in **column 1** of the table that includes the date you expect to have your baby. Read across the line to work out your Test Period and the 15th week before the week your baby is due. See the example below.

If the week you expect to have your baby is not shown in **column 1** of the table, get in touch with Jobcentre Plus. Ask them for a new Maternity Allowance Test Period table.

The 15th week before the week your baby is due is used to decide if you should be getting Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP). This week starts on the date shown in **column 4** of the table.

You might get SMP if you were employed in this week and satisfy the conditions for payment.

Example

See the shaded line on **page 2**.

Date you expect to have your baby:
10 April 2013

The week that includes the date you expect to have your baby
(**column 1**) **7 April 2013 – 13 April 2013**

Your Test Period is
(**columns 2 and 3**) **1 January 2012 – 6 April 2013**

The 15th week before the week your baby is due starts on
(**column 4**) **23 December 2013**

2012/2013

1	2	3	4
The week that includes the date you expect to have your baby	The first day of your Test Period	The last day of your Test Period	The 15th week before the week your baby is due starts on
November 2012			
04/11 – 10/11	31 Jul 2011	03 Nov 2012	22 Jul 2012
11/11 – 17/11	07 Aug 2011	10 Nov 2012	29 Jul 2012
18/11 – 24/11	14 Aug 2011	17 Nov 2012	05 Aug 2012
25/11 – 01/12	21 Aug 2011	24 Nov 2012	12 Aug 2012
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23/12 – 29/12	18 Sep 2011	22 Dec 2012	09 Sep 2012
30/12 – 05/01	25 Sep 2011	29 Dec 2012	16 Sep 2012
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2013

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2013/2014

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2015/2016

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28/02 – 05/03	23 Nov 2014	27 Feb 2015	15 Nov 2015
March			
06/03 – 12/03	30 Nov 2014	05 Feb 2016	22 Nov 2015
13/03 – 19/03	07 Dec 2014	12 Mar 2016	29 Nov 2015
20/03 – 26/03	14 Dec 2014	19 Mar 2016	06 Nov 2015
27/03 – 02/04	21 Dec 2014	26 Mar 2016	13 Dec 2015
April			
03/04 – 09/04	28 Dec 2014	02 Apr 2016	20 Dec 2015
10/04 – 16/04	04 Jan 2015	09 Apr 2016	27 Dec 2015
17/04 – 23/04	11 Jan 2015	16 Apr 2016	03 Jan 2016
24/04 – 30/04	18 Jan 2015	23 Apr 2016	10 Jan 2016

2016

1 The week that includes the date you expect to have your baby	2 The first day of your Test Period	3 The last day of your Test Period	4 The 15th week before the week your baby is due starts on
May 2016			
01/05 – 07/05	25 Jan 2015	30 Apr 2016	17 Jan 2016
08/05 – 14/05	01 Feb 2015	07 May 2016	24 Jan 2016
15/05 – 21/05	08 Feb 2015	14 May 2016	31 Jan 2016
22/05 – 28/05	15 Feb 2015	21 May 2016	07 Feb 2016
29/05 – 04/06	22 Feb 2015	28 May 2016	14 Feb 2016
June			
05/06 – 11/06	01 Mar 2015	04 Jun 2016	21 Feb 2016
12/06 – 18/06	08 Mar 2015	11 Jun 2016	28 Feb 2016
19/06 – 25/06	15 Mar 2015	18 Jun 2016	06 Mar 2016
26/06 – 02/07	22 Mar 2015	25 Jun 2016	13 Mar 2016
July			
03/07 – 09/07	29 Mar 2015	02 Jul 2016	20 Mar 2016
10/07 – 16/07	05 Apr 2015	09 Jul 2016	27 Mar 2016
17/07 – 23/07	12 Apr 2015	16 Jul 2016	03 Apr 2016
24/07 – 30/07	19 Apr 2015	23 Jul 2016	10 Apr 2016
31/07 – 06/08	26 Apr 2015	30 Jul 2016	17 Apr 2016
August			
07/08 – 13/08	03 May 2015	06 Aug 2016	24 Apr 2016
14/08 – 20/08	10 May 2015	13 Aug 2016	01 May 2016
21/08 – 27/08	17 May 2015	20 Aug 2016	08 May 2016
28/08 – 03/09	24 May 2015	27 Aug 2016	15 May 2016
September			
04/09 – 10/09	31 May 2015	03 Sep 2016	22 May 2016
11/09 – 17/09	07 Jun 2015	10 Sep 2016	29 Jun 2016
18/09 – 24/09	14 Jun 2015	17 Sep 2016	05 Jun 2016
25/09 – 01/10	21 Jun 2015	24 Sep 2016	12 Jun 2016
October			
02/10 – 08/10	28 Jun 2015	01 Oct 2016	19 Jun 2016
09/10 – 15/10	05 Jul 2015	08 Oct 2016	26 Jun 2016
16/10 – 22/10	12 Jul 2015	15 Oct 2016	03 Jul 2016
23/10 – 29/10	19 Jul 2015	22 Oct 2016	10 Jul 2016
30/10 – 05/11	26 Jul 2015	29 Oct 2016	17 Jul 2016

2016/2017

1 The week that includes the date you expect to have your baby	2 The first day of your Test Period	3 The last day of your Test Period	4 The 15th week before the week your baby is due starts on
November 2016			
06/11 – 12/11	02 Aug 2015	05 Nov 2016	24 Jul 2016
13/11 – 19/11	09 Aug 2015	12 Nov 2016	31 Jul 2016
20/11 – 26/11	16 Aug 2015	19 Nov 2016	07 Aug 2016
27/11 – 03/12	23 Aug 2015	26 Nov 2016	14 Aug 2016
December			
04/12 – 10/12	30 Aug 2015	03 Dec 2016	21 Aug 2016
11/12 – 17/12	06 Sep 2015	10 Dec 2016	28 Aug 2016
18/12 – 24/12	13 Sep 2015	17 Dec 2016	04 Sep 2016
25/12 – 31/12	20 Sep 2015	24 Dec 2016	11 Sep 2016
January 2017			
01/01 – 07/01	27 Sep 2015	31 Dec 2016	18 Sep 2016
08/01 – 14/01	04 Oct 2015	07 Jan 2017	25 Sep 2016
15/01 – 21/01	11 Oct 2015	14 Jan 2017	02 Oct 2016
22/01 – 28/01	18 Oct 2015	21 Jan 2017	09 Oct 2016
29/01 – 04/02	25 Oct 2015	28 Jan 2017	16 Oct 2016
February			
05/02 – 11/02	01 Nov 2015	04 Feb 2017	23 Oct 2016
12/02 – 18/02	08 Nov 2015	11 Feb 2017	30 Oct 2016
19/02 – 25/02	15 Nov 2015	18 Feb 2017	06 Nov 2016
26/02 – 04/03	22 Nov 2015	25 Feb 2017	13 Nov 2016
March			
05/03 – 11/03	29 Nov 2015	04 Feb 2017	20 Nov 2016
12/03 – 18/03	06 Dec 2015	11 Mar 2017	27 Nov 2016
19/03 – 25/03	13 Dec 2015	18 Mar 2017	04 Nov 2016
26/03 – 01/04	20 Dec 2015	25 Mar 2017	11 Dec 2016
April			
02/04 – 08/04	27 Dec 2015	01 Apr 2017	18 Dec 2016
09/04 – 15/04	03 Jan 2016	08 Apr 2017	25 Dec 2016
16/04 – 22/04	10 Jan 2016	15 Apr 2017	01 Jan 2017
23/04 – 29/04	17 Jan 2016	22 Apr 2017	08 Jan 2017
30/04 – 06/05	24 Jan 2016	29 Apr 2017	15 Jan 2017

2017

1 The week that includes the date you expect to have your baby	2 The first day of your Test Period	3 The last day of your Test Period	4 The 15th week before the week your baby is due starts on
May 2017			
07/05 – 13/05	31 Jan 2016	06 May 2017	22 Jan 2017
14/05 – 20/05	07 Feb 2016	13 May 2017	29 Jan 2017
21/05 – 27/05	14 Feb 2016	20 May 2017	05 Feb 2017
28/05 – 03/06	21 Feb 2016	27 May 2017	12 Feb 2017
June			
04/06 – 10/06	28 Feb 2016	03 Jun 2017	19 Feb 2017
11/06 – 17/06	06 Mar 2016	10 Jun 2017	26 Feb 2017
18/06 – 24/06	13 Mar 2016	17 Jun 2017	05 Mar 2017
25/06 – 01/07	20 Mar 2016	24 Jun 2017	12 Mar 2017
July			
02/07 – 08/07	27 Mar 2016	01 Jul 2017	19 Mar 2017
09/07 – 15/07	03 Apr 2016	08 Jul 2017	26 Mar 2017
16/07 – 22/07	10 Apr 2016	15 Jul 2017	02 Apr 2017
23/07 – 29/07	17 Apr 2016	22 Jul 2017	09 Apr 2017
30/07 – 05/08	24 Apr 2016	29 Jul 2017	16 Apr 2017
August			
06/08 – 12/08	01 May 2016	05 Aug 2017	23 Apr 2017
13/08 – 19/08	08 May 2016	12 Aug 2017	30 Apr 2017
20/08 – 26/08	15 May 2016	19 Aug 2017	07 May 2017
27/08 – 02/09	22 May 2016	26 Aug 2017	14 May 2017
September			
03/09 – 09/09	29 May 2016	02 Sep 2017	21 May 2017
10/09 – 16/09	05 Jun 2016	09 Sep 2017	28 May 2017
17/09 – 23/09	12 Jun 2016	16 Sep 2017	04 Jun 2017
24/09 – 30/09	19 Jun 2016	23 Sep 2017	11 Jun 2017
October			
01/10 – 07/10	26 Jun 2016	30 Sep 2017	18 Jun 2017
08/10 – 14/10	03 Jul 2016	07 Oct 2017	25 Jun 2017
15/10 – 21/10	10 Jul 2016	14 Oct 2017	02 Jul 2017
22/10 – 28/10	17 Jul 2016	21 Oct 2017	09 Jul 2017
29/10 – 04/11	24 Jul 2016	28 Oct 2017	16 Jul 2017

2017

1	2	3	4
The week that includes the date you expect to have your baby	The first day of your Test Period	The last day of your Test Period	The 15th week before the week your baby is due starts on
November 2017			
05/11 – 11/11	31 Jul 2016	04 Nov 2017	23 Jul 2017
12/11 – 18/11	07 Aug 2016	11 Nov 2017	30 Jul 2017
19/11 – 25/11	14 Aug 2016	18 Nov 2017	06 Aug 2017
26/11 – 02/12	21 Aug 2016	25 Nov 2017	13 Aug 2017
December			
03/12 – 09/12	28 Aug 2016	02 Dec 2017	20 Aug 2017
10/12 – 16/12	04 Sep 2016	09 Dec 2017	27 Aug 2017
17/12 – 23/12	11 Sep 2016	16 Dec 2017	03 Sep 2017
24/12 – 30/12	18 Sep 2016	23 Dec 2017	10 Sep 2017
31/12 – 06/01	25 Sep 2016	30 Dec 2017	17 Sep 2017

Maternity Allowance

jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

Use this form to claim Maternity Allowance

To fill in this form, you will need to read the **Notes sheet** and **Test Period table** that came in this claim pack. Please write clearly in ink.

Your benefit payments may be delayed if you do not

- answer all the questions on this form that apply to you
- send us all the documents we ask for.

If you cannot do this, get in touch with us straight away.

If you have any problems filling in the claim form, someone else can do it for you.

If you can sign the form please do so.

If another person signs it for you, your claim may be delayed.

If you want any more information about Maternity Allowance, get in touch with the Wrexham Maternity Allowance office which deals with your benefit, you can find their address and contact details in **Part 11** of this form.

For information about benefits and services visit www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

If you claim more than 3 months after the date your Maternity Allowance is due to start, you will lose money.

Part 1 About you

Surname or family name

Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr

All other names, in full

All other surnames or family names you have been known by or are using now.

If you need to tell us about more names, use the space in **Part 9** of this form, **Other information**.

Date of birth

/ /

What is your National Insurance (NI) number?

You can find the number on your National Insurance (NI) numbercard, letters from social security or payslips.

Letters

Numbers

Letter

If you do not know your NI number, have you ever had one or used one at any time?

No

☐

Yes

☐

Address

Postcode

Address, if different in the last 3 years

If you need to tell us about more than one address, use the space in **Part 9** of this form, **Other information**.

Postcode

Home phone number

Code	Number
------	--------

Work phone number

Code	Number
------	--------

Mobile phone number

Code	Number
------	--------

What date do you expect to have your baby?

If you are claiming after your baby was born, please tell us the date you had your baby.

Please see **page 5** of the **Notes sheet** for evidence of birth.

If your baby was stillborn, please see **page 5** and **page 6** of the **Notes sheet**.

/	/
---	---

Part 2 About your work

- a** Look at the Test Period table that came in this claim pack.

Find the week in column 1 that includes the date you expect to have your baby. Read across to column 4 to find the start of the 15th week before the week your baby is due. Write the date from column 4 here.

	/	/
--	---	---

-
- b** Were you employed by an employer during this 15th week?

We explain what we mean by *employer* and *employed* on **page 3** of the **Notes sheet**.

No ☐ Please go to **Part 3** of this form, **About your Test Period**.

Yes ☐ Please answer **part c** below.

-
- c** If you were employed in this 15th week you may be able to get **Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP)**. Please get in touch with your employer and ask about SMP.

Will you be able to get SMP?

No ☐

Yes ☐

-
- d** If you cannot get SMP, each of your employers must give you a form **SMP1** to send to us.

Are you sending us form **SMP1**?

No ☐ Please tell us why:

--

Yes ☐

Part 3 About your Test Period

- a** Look under column 1 of the Test Period table that came in this claim pack to find the week that includes the date you expect to have your baby. Write that week here.

Date and month

For example:
04/09 – 10/09

Year

For example:
2011

-
- b** Look across the table to column 2 to find the first day of your Test Period.

Write that date here

Look across the table to column 3 to find the last day of your Test Period.

Write that date here

Page 2 of the **Notes sheet** explains the Test Period.

-
- c** Are you or have you been employed in your Test Period?

If you have been both employed and self-employed in your Test Period, fill in **Part 4** and **Part 5** of this form.

No

☐

Go to **Part 5** of this form, **About self-employment in your Test Period**.
See **page 8** and **page 9** of the **Notes sheet**.

Yes

☐

Go to **Part 4** of this form, **About employment and earnings in your Test Period**.
See **page 7** and **page 8** of the **Notes sheet**.

Part 4 About employment and earnings in your Test Period

a Please tell us about all your employers in your Test Period.

If you do not tell us about all your employers your claim will be delayed.
Use the space in **Part 9** of this form to give us any further information.

For example, if your employer was an agency, if you had more than three employers or if you still have a contract with your employer.

	Employer 1	Employer 2	Employer 3
Name and address of the employer	Postcode	Postcode	Postcode
Phone number			
Date your employment started	/ /	/ /	/ /
Date your employment stopped If you still have a contract with your employer, do not fill this date in.	/ /	/ /	/ /
Payroll, employee, clock or works number			
b How often are you normally paid?	Weekly ☐ 4-weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ Monthly ☐ If other, how often?	Weekly ☐ 4-weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ Monthly ☐ If other, how often?	Weekly ☐ 4-weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ Monthly ☐ If other, how often?
c What days do you normally work?	Monday ☐ Friday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Saturday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Sunday ☐ Thursday ☐	Monday ☐ Friday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Saturday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Sunday ☐ Thursday ☐	Monday ☐ Friday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Saturday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Sunday ☐ Thursday ☐

Part 4 **About employment and earnings in your Test Period** continued

d We need you to choose 13 weeks from your Test Period that you worked out in section b of Part 3, so we can work out how much Maternity Allowance you can get.

Please see pages 7 and 8 of the **Notes sheet** and enclose the payslips for those 13 weeks.

e Have you started your maternity leave? No ☐ Go to **Part 5** of this form, **About self-employment in your Test Period**.

Yes ☐ Go to question **f** on this page.

f What date did you start your maternity leave?

g What date did you last work?

h Did you get any holiday pay or sick pay after you last worked? No ☐ Go to question **i** on this page.

Yes ☐ Sick Pay from to

Was your sickness pregnancy-related? No ☐
See **page 7** of the **Notes sheet**.

Yes ☐

Holiday Pay from to

i What date do you want us to pay your Maternity Allowance from?

See **page 6** of the **Notes sheet**.

Part 5 About self-employment in your Test Period

a Are you or have you been working as a registered self-employed person in your Test Period?

No ☐ Go to **Part 6** of this form, **About periods abroad in your Test Period**.

Yes ☐

To find out more about self-employment and registration with HM Revenue & Customs, see **pages 8 and 9** of the **Notes sheet**.

b What dates were you registered as self-employed?

From / / to / /

c Please tick the days you normally work

Monday

☐

Tuesday

☐

Wednesday

☐

Thursday

☐

Friday

☐

Saturday

☐

Sunday

☐

Part 5 **About self-employment in your Test Period** continued

d Did you pay Class 2 National Insurance contributions as a registered self-employed person in your Test Period?

No ☐ Go to question f on this page.

Yes ☐

e How did you pay these contributions?

Direct debit ☐

Six-monthly billing ☐

Other ☐ Please give details.

f Do you have a Small Earnings Exception certificate for any period within your Test Period?

No ☐

Yes ☐

g Have you started your maternity leave?

No ☐ Go to **Part 6** of this form, **About periods abroad in your Test Period**.

Yes ☐ Go to question h on this page.

h What date did you start your maternity leave?

i What date did you last work?

j What date do you want us to pay your Maternity Allowance from?
See page 6 of the Notes sheet.

Part 6 About periods abroad in your Test Period

a Did you spend any time abroad, other than holidays, in your Test Period?

No ☐ Go to **Part 7** of this form, **About other benefits**.

Yes ☐ See **page 8** of the **Notes sheet**.

b During these visits, were you

• employed abroad by an overseas employer ☐

• employed abroad by a UK employer ☐

• self-employed abroad ☐

• a member of a service family abroad ☐

• receiving any benefits in a foreign country ☐

• none of these? ☐

Tick the boxes which apply to you.

c Which countries did you spend time in?

Country

From / / To / /

Country

From / / To / /

If you need to tell us about more than 2 countries, please use the space in **Part 9** of this form, **Other information**.

d What periods did you pay National Insurance contributions for?

From / / To / /

From / / To / /

Part 6 About periods abroad in your Test Period continued

e Please give details of your employers while you were abroad.

If you need to tell us about more than two employers, please use the space in **Part 9** of this form, **Other information**.

	Employer 1	Employer 2
Name and address of the employer	Postcode	Postcode
Phone number		
Date your employment started	/ /	/ /
Date your employment stopped If you are still employed by the employer, do not fill this date in.	/ /	/ /
Payroll, employee, clock or works number		
f How often are you normally paid? Please tick the box that applies to you.	Weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ 4-weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other	Weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ 4-weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other

Part 7 About other benefits

We need to know about any money that you are getting from the Department for Work and Pensions, any other government department or the Training Agency. **We also need to know about any money that your spouse, civil partner or anyone else is either**

- **getting for you, or**
- **getting added to their benefit for you.**

This money may make a difference to your Maternity Allowance. Your Maternity Allowance can also make a difference to the other money that you can get. There is more information about this in **NI17A** *A guide to Maternity Benefits*. You can find the guide on our website. The address is www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

a Are you or they getting any other benefits?

Tick **Yes** even if you or they are waiting to hear about a benefit.

For example,

- Bereavement benefits
- Carer's Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support
- In Work Credit or Return to Work Credit
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit
- State Pension
- Statutory Adoption Pay (SAP)
- Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP)
- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)
- Training Allowance
- War Widow's Pension
- Widow's Benefit
- Any other benefits.

If you need to tell us about more than 4 benefits, please use the space in **Part 9** of this form, **Other information**.

No

☐

Yes

☐

Please tell us about the benefits below.

Name of benefit

Reference number, if known

Name of benefit

Reference number, if known

Name of benefit

Reference number, if known

Name of benefit

Reference number, if known

Part 8 **How we pay you**

You can choose how often you want us to pay your benefit.

How often do you want us to pay your benefit? Every 2 weeks ☐

Every 4 weeks ☐

We normally pay your money into an account

Many banks and building societies will let you collect your money at the post office.

Your benefit will be paid in arrears.

We will tell you when we will make the first payment and how much it will be for. We will tell you if the amount we pay into the account is going to change.

Finding out how much we have paid into the account

You can check your payments on account statements. The statements may show your National Insurance (NI) number next to any payments we have made. If you think a payment is wrong, get in touch with the office that pays you straight away.

If we pay you too much money

We have the right to take back any money we pay that you are not entitled to. This may be because of the way the system works for payments into an account.

For example, you may give us some information, which means you are entitled to less money. Sometimes we may not be able to change the amount we have already paid you. This means we will have paid you money that you are not entitled to.

We will contact you before we take back any money.

What to do now

- Tell us about the account you want to use on the next page. By giving us your account details you
 - agree that we will pay you into an account, and
 - understand what we have told you in the section **If we pay you too much money.**
- If you are going to open an account, please tell us your account details as soon as you get them.
- If you do not have an account, please contact us and we will give you more information.

Fill in the rest of this form. You do not have to wait until you have opened an account or contacted us.

About the account you want to use

- You can use an **account in your name**, or a **joint account**.
- You can use **someone else's account** if
 - the terms and conditions of their account allow this, and
 - they agree to let you use their account, and
 - you are sure they will use your money in the way you tell them.
- You can use a **credit union account**. You must tell us the credit union's account details. Your credit union will be able to help you with this.
- If you are an **appointee** or a **legal representative** acting on behalf of the claimant, the account should be in your name only.

Please tell us your account details below.

It is very important you fill in all the boxes correctly, including the building society roll or reference number, if you have one. If you tell us the wrong account details your payment may be delayed or you may lose money.

You can find the account details on your chequebook or bank statements. If you do not know the account details, ask the bank or building society.

Name of the account holder

Please write the name of the account holder exactly as it is shown on the chequebook or statement.

Full name of bank or building society

Sort code

Please tell us all 6 numbers, for example: 12-34-56.

			–				–			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Account number

Most account numbers are 8 numbers long. If your account number has fewer than 10 numbers, please fill in the numbers from the left.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Building society roll or reference number

If you are using a building society account you may need to tell us a roll or reference number. This may be made up of letters and numbers, and may be up to 18 characters long. If you are not sure if the account has a roll or reference number, ask the building society.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

You may get other benefits and entitlements we do not pay into an account. If you want us to pay them into the account above, please tick this box.

☐

Part 9 **Other information**

Use this space to tell us anything else you think we might need to know.
If there is not enough space, please use a separate sheet of paper.
Make sure you put your full name and National Insurance (NI) number on each sheet of paper, and sign and date each sheet that you use.

**Please give us the address of
your local post office.**

Postcode

Part 10 Declaration

- **I declare** that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete as far as I know and believe.
- **I understand** that if I knowingly give information that is incorrect or incomplete, my benefit may be stopped and I may be liable to prosecution or other action.
- **I understand** that I must promptly tell the office that pays my benefit of anything that may affect my entitlement to, or the amount of, that benefit.
- **I agree** that
 - the Department for Work and Pensions
 - any health care professional advising the Department
 - any organisation with which the Department has a contract for the provision of medical servicesmay ask any of the people or organisations mentioned on this form for any information which is needed to deal with
 - this claim for benefit
 - any request for this claim to be looked at againand that the information may be given to that health care professional or organisation or to the Department.
- **I also understand** that the Department may use the information which it has now or may get in the future to decide whether I am entitled to
 - the benefit I am claiming
 - any other benefit I have claimed
 - any other benefit I may claim or be awarded in the future.

This is my claim for Maternity Allowance.

Do not sign and date this form earlier than the 14th week before the week your baby is due.

Signature
you must
sign in ink

Date

If you have filled in and signed this form for someone else, please tick here.

☐

The table below tells you which documents you need to send in with your claim.

Please tick the boxes below to show what you are sending to us.

Everyone

You must send the original, not a photocopy of a Maternity Certificate **MAT B1**. See **page 5** of the **Notes sheet**.

☐

If you are claiming after the baby is born

You must also send your baby's birth certificate if the date you had your baby is not on the **MAT B1**. See **page 5** of the **Notes sheet**.

☐

If your baby was stillborn, please send us the notification of stillbirth or the stillbirth certificate. See **page 5** and **page 6** of the **Notes sheet**.

☐

If you were employed by an employer in the 15th week before the week your baby is due and you cannot get Statutory Maternity Pay

You must also send form **SMP1**. See **page 2** of the **Notes sheet**.

☐

If you have worked for an employer

You must send us original payslips for the 13 weeks you choose. See **page 7** and **page 8** of the **Notes sheet**.

☐

Part 11 What to do now

- Check that you have answered all the questions on this form that apply to you.
- Check you are sending us all the documents we have asked for. Use the list on **page 15** of this claim form.
- Send your form and documents to the office that deals with your benefit. You can find out which office deals with your benefit below. If you are not sure which office deals with your benefit, contact the relevant office below.

Where you live	Office that deals with your benefit	Phone numbers
If you live in England, Scotland or Wales	Wrexham MOU Jobcentre Plus Wrexham BC(MA) Jupiter Drive Chester, CH70 8BL	0845 608 8610 English speakers 0845 608 8674 Welsh speakers 0845 608 8553 Textphone users with speech or hearing difficulties Fax 01978 316511 Email wrexam.MA@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk
If you are claiming from abroad	International Pensions Centre Jobcentre Plus Tyneview Park Newcastle Upon Tyne NE98 1BA United Kingdom	0191 218 7082 44 191 218 7082
If you live in Northern Ireland obtain a claim form from www.nidirect.gov.uk/maternity-allowance		

Part 12 How we collect and use information

The information we collect about you and how we use it depends mainly on the reason for your business with us. But we may use it for any of the Department's purposes, which include

- social security benefits and allowances
- child support
- employment and training
- private pensions policy, and
- retirement planning.

We may get information from others to check the information you give to us and to improve our services. We may give information to other organisations as the law allows, for example to protect against crime.

To find out more about how we use information, visit our website **www.dwp.gov.uk/privacy-policy** or contact any of our offices.

Part 13 Our service standards

At Jobcentre Plus we aim to provide a high standard of customer service at all times. Details of the standard of service you can expect from us can be found at **www.direct.gov.uk/dwpcharter**

You can access our website from many libraries.

For more information please contact Jobcentre Plus.