

## Bringing a companion to your PIP consultation

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**We encourage you to bring a companion along to your PIP consultation.**

**A companion might be, but is not limited to, a family member, friend, advocate, key worker, Social Worker, or Community Nurse.**

**They can offer you moral support and share extra information about how your condition affects you on a daily basis.**

**If you are having a telephone consultation, your companion can be added to the call.**



**Here is some information for you and your companion to read before your consultation.**

- It is important that the disability assessor hears directly from you during the consultation, so whilst your companion can contribute to the discussion, they should not speak on your behalf.
- At the beginning of your consultation, the disability assessor will ask for your permission for your companion to be present and to contribute to the consultation. They will also try to establish the nature of the relationship between you and your companion – for instance are they there to offer moral support, or do they have a greater understanding of your condition.
- Whilst extremely unlikely, the disability assessor can ask a companion to leave a consultation if they believe their presence is disruptive, or if they have reason to believe a companion is attending for another reason other than to support you.

## Information to share with your companion before the consultation

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- Your companion's presence and involvement will be recorded in the consultation report, including their name and relation to you. In that report, the disability assessor will also make it clear what information was provided by you and what was provided by your companion.
- If your companion believes important information about how your condition impacts your daily life has been missed, they should contribute during the consultation. The disability assessor may encourage your companion to help answer some questions if necessary.

- As long as you give permission, your companion can ask to speak to the disability assessor separately at the end of the consultation if they want to add more detail.
- If the disability assessor asks you to do some physical movements, your companion cannot assist. However, as long as you and the disability assessor are comfortable, your companion can be present throughout.
- Your companion is free to take notes and these do not need to be shared with the disability assessor, Capita or the DfC.

**If you have any questions about bringing a companion to your PIP consultation, please contact our team [here](#).**