

Universal Credit Waiting Days – the exemptions

Universal Credit will **not** normally be paid for the first 7 days of a claim: these days are called 'waiting days'. This means Housing costs, along with the personal allowance element of UC will not be paid until the 8th day after the claim date.

There are some times when Universal Credit may be paid from the date of claim. They are:

- ☐ If the claimant had already claimed Universal Credit as part of a couple but that claim ended because they separated from their partner
- ☐ If the claimant had claimed Universal Credit on their own but then moved in with a partner and are now claiming together
- ☐ If they stopped getting Universal Credit within the last 6 months because they earned too much but now they need to claim again
- ☐ The claimant is ill and are not expected to live for more than 6 months
- ☐ They are a care leaver (if living in supported accommodation, evidence will be required)
- ☐ If they are aged between 16 and 17 and their parents don't support them
- ☐ If they left prison in the last month (prison discharge papers will need to be seen as evidence)
- ☐ If they have been the victim of domestic violence within the last 6 months (evidence is required in the form of a letter from a person acting in an official capacity ie a health care professional, a police officer, a registered social, the claimant's employer or a representative of their trade union, any public, voluntary or charitable body which has had direct contact with the claimant in connection with domestic violence and abuse.
- ☐ If the claimant was entitled to contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance, or contribution based Employment and Support Allowance in the last 3 months
- ☐ If the claimant was entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support but they stopped claiming in the last 3 months because they started paid work – evidence will be required in the form of their latest P45 or letter from their Employer confirming employment within the 3 months prior to the date of claim to UC.
- ☐ If they were getting Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support in the last month but now have to claim Universal Credit
- ☐ If they were getting Working Tax Credits, Child Tax Credits or Housing Benefit in the last month and are now claiming Universal Credit – If they were in receipt of HB prior to claiming UC we will need to see the HB award letter or other proof from their council.

If you think any of these circumstances apply, the claimant must please let DWP know when we call them to book their first appointment or during their first interview.

Currently claimants not expected to live for more than 6 months or claimants aged between 16 and 17 are exempt from claiming Universal Credit.