

Changes to Benefits

for people with disabilities or illness which make it difficult for them to work

Everyone falls into 2 groups depending on whether you claimed before or after 27/10/08

I claimed before
27/10/2008 and still get
Incapacity Benefit, Severe
Disablement Allowance or
Income Support



Sometime in the next few years my benefit will change. I will be assessed to see if I should receive Employment Support Allowance (ESA). See the next page for what will happen.

Before
27/10/2008

We claimed After 27/10/2008, we
get Employment Support
Allowance



I am in the
Support Group



I am in the
Work Related
Activity Group

After
27/10/2008

1



2



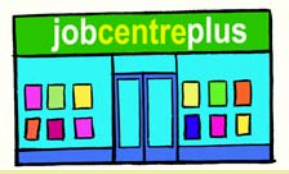
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You will be sent a form called an **ESA 50**. You should ask your key worker to help you fill this in.



Jobcentre Plus will look at your **ESA 50** form and may also ask you to attend a **medical assessment** with a doctor.

You can take someone with you to the medical assessment if you want.

You can also take letters from your own GP or other people who know you well.



Jobcentre plus make a decision using all the information they have.

They will tell you if you can get ESA and, if you can, which group you will be put in.

The two groups are:

- Work Related Activity Group
- Support Group

You can appeal the decision if you do not agree with it. You must do this within one month.

Work-related Activity Group

You have a disability or illness that prevents you working at the moment but you should be able to work in the future with the right help. You must go to 6 interviews to talk about helping you into work.



Support Group

You have a severe disability or illness. If you are in the Support Group there will be no pressure on you to return to work but if you want to work help will be given.