

Universal Credit (UC) Guide

For Parents of Children on
Long-Term Ventilation

Pan Thames Paediatric LTV Programme



North Thames
Paediatric Network
Connecting paediatric services



South Thames
Paediatric Network
Specialising paediatric care for
children and young people



What is Universal Credit?

Universal Credit is a payment designed to help with living costs for individuals and families with low incomes or those who are not in employment. It replaces several previous benefits and is paid monthly to cover essential expenses like housing, childcare, and daily living costs.

Who Can Claim Universal Credit?

Universal Credit can provide extra support for parents who have children with significant care needs due to long-term medical conditions.

You may qualify for Universal Credit if you meet the following criteria:

- **Income:** You are on a low income or unemployed.
- **Age:** You are over 18.
- **Savings:** You have less than £16,000 in savings.
- **Child Responsibility:** You or your partner are responsible for a child with a disability or long-term health condition, such as one on long-term ventilation.
- **Residency and Immigration:** You meet the UK residency and immigration status requirements.



Universal Credit Components

Universal Credit is made up of a **standard allowance** and additional amounts based on your circumstances.



Standard Allowance

The Standard Allowance is the base monthly amount provided, varying by age and relationship status:

Single, under 25: £311.68

Single, 25 or over: £393.45

Couple, both under 25: £489.23
(combined)

Couple, one or both 25 or over:
£617.60 (combined)



Additional Elements

You may be entitled to extra payments if:

- You have **children**, especially if they have a disability or require additional care.
- You are a **carer** for someone with a disability or long-term health condition.
- You need help with **housing costs** such as rent or mortgage interest payments

“ If your child is on LTV, you may be entitled to the Disabled Child Element, which provides additional financial support for families caring for a child with a disability ”

**TOP
TIPS**



How to Apply for Universal Credit

Online Application:
Apply for Universal Credit



Be prepared to provide details about your finances, including income, savings, and regular expenses. You will also need to describe your child's care needs in detail, especially if they require long-term ventilation.

Additional Information



Children: Universal Credit offers additional support for children, with enhanced rates for those with disabilities. Standard amounts apply for the first two children, with exceptions for specific cases.

Childcare: Up to 85% of eligible childcare costs are covered, requiring proof of payments.

Disabilities or Health Conditions: Those with assessed limited capability for work may receive additional support, including a higher rate for severe limitations.

Carer Support: Extra support is available for those providing care for 35+ hours weekly to someone with a disability.

Housing Costs: Universal Credit can help with rent and some service charges. Homeowners might be eligible for a loan to cover mortgage interest payments.



More Support and Resources

Contact Information

Universal Credit Helpline: 0800 328 5644

Website: [gov.uk/universal-credit](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit)

For more details about UC and other
available benefits, scan the QR
code below to visit the GOV.UK
website



Visit the Long-Term
Ventilation (LTV)
website for further
guidance and support
for carers

