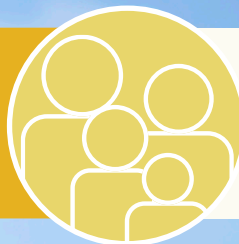


# Entitlements

For New Parents of Children with Cystic Fibrosis





# ENTITLEMENTS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

This booklet outlines the most relevant State entitlements for new parents of a child diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, which you may be eligible to apply for depending on your means and circumstances.

SECTION	PAGE
<b>MAIN PAYMENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
Domiciliary Care Allowance	3
Carer's Allowance	4
Carer's Benefit	5
Carer's Leave	6
Respite Care Grant	6
<b>HEALTH SERVICE ENTITLEMENTS</b>	<b>7</b>
Long Term Illness Scheme	7
Medical Card	7
GP Visit Cards	8
<b>TAX CREDITS AND RELIEFS</b>	<b>9</b>
Incapacitated Child Tax Credit	9
Tax Relief on Medical Expenses	9
<b>APPEALS</b>	<b>11</b>
Social Welfare Appeals	11
HSE	11
<b>FOR MORE INFORMATION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>NOTES</b>	<b>13</b>



## MAIN PAYMENTS

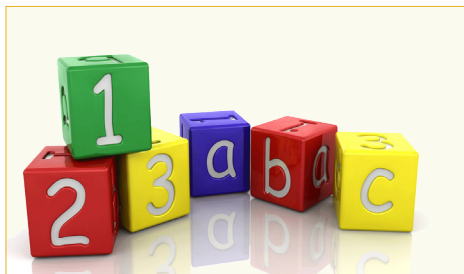
### DOMICILIARY CARE ALLOWANCE

Domiciliary Care Allowance is a monthly payment to the carer of a child with a disability who requires care and attention and/or supervision substantially in excess of another child of the same age.

A Medical Assessor will be appointed by the Department of Social Protection to determine eligibility for this allowance. They will look at the degree of additional care and attention needed by your child rather than the type of disability involved.

In addition, the medical assessor will:

- Review the history of the case
- Consider all medical reports received from the CF Consultant/GP
- Have regard to the description of the care and attention required by the child given by the parent/guardian (this is a very important step that will give a picture of the extra work involved in caring for your child – state what extra care your child needs under a number of headings).



### Rate

The Domiciliary Care Allowance rate is €309.50 per month in 2012.

### How to Apply

For an application form text "FORM DCA" followed by your name and address to 51909 (standard rates apply). Alternatively contact your Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre.

If your application is successful you will also be eligible for the annual Respite Care Grant (see below).

### For more information

Domiciliary Care Allowance  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Department of Social Protection  
College Road, Sligo

**t:** 071 915 7100

**Locall:** 1890 500 000

**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

**If you are a low income household or are on social welfare you should apply for the following:**

### **CARER'S ALLOWANCE**

The Carer's Allowance is a means-tested weekly payment for carers on low incomes who live with and look after certain people who need full-time care and attention.

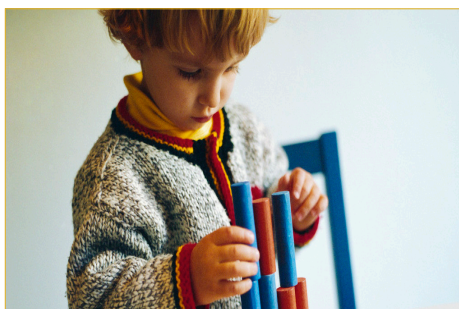
You must not be engaged in employment, self-employment, training or education courses outside the home for more than 15 hours a week (alternative care arrangements would have to be made at such a time). Carer's Allowance is not taken into account in the assessment for a medical card.

If you qualify for the Carer's Allowance, you also qualify for free household benefits (such as free electricity/natural gas/bottled gas refill allowance, free television Licence, free telephone rental allowance) and a Free Travel Pass. If you get the Carer's Allowance, you would also be paid the Respite Care Grant automatically in June each year (see later).

### **Rate**

Caring for 1 person aged under 66 the weekly maximum rate is €204 in 2012 / Caring for 2 persons aged under 66 the weekly maximum rate is €306 in 2012. You may claim a full-rate increase (€29.80) in your payment for a child

dependant if you are a carer and are single, widowed, separated or a civil partner who is not living with the other civil partner. You may claim a half-rate increase (€14.90) in your payment for a child dependant if you are a carer and are living with your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant.



### **How to Apply**

Contact your Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre. Alternatively download an application form (CR1 or CR2 if you are caring for more than one person) from [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) or [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).

### **For more information**

Department of Social Protection  
Carer's Allowance Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford

**t:** 043 334 0000

**Locall:** 1890 92 77 70

**If you wish to take time off work to care for your child you can apply for the following:**

### **CARER'S BENEFIT**

If you are in insurable employment and you wish to leave the workforce for up to two years to care for your child (see Carer's Leave below), you may qualify for Carer's Benefit. This payment is based on your PRSI contributions.

You can claim Carer's Benefit for a single continuous period or in any number of separate blocks up to a total of 104 weeks (two years) for each person being cared for. You may subsequently qualify for the Carer's Allowance after this period if still providing full-time care for your child.

### **How to Apply**

Contact your Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre. Alternatively download an application form (CARB1) from [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) or [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).



### **Rate**

For 2012, the maximum weekly rate is €205 if caring for one person and €307.50 if caring for two people. You may also get an increase for each qualified child €29.80 (full rate) / €14.90 (half rate), depending on your weekly income.

### **For more information**

Department of Social Protection  
Carer's Benefit Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford

**t:** 043 334 0000

**Local:** 1890 92 77 70

**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Information on carer's leave from employment is available from:

### **Workplace Relations Customer Services**

(formerly Information Services of the National Employment Rights Authority)

Department of Jobs, Enterprise  
and Innovation  
O'Brien Road  
Carlow

Opening Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9.30am to 5pm

**t:** 059 917 8990

**Local:** 1890 80 80 90

**w:** [www.workplacerelations.ie](http://www.workplacerelations.ie)

### CARER'S LEAVE

If your child needs full-time care, you may be able to take carer's leave (temporary unpaid leave from employment) while preserving your employment rights. In order to qualify, you must have been in continuous employment for at least a year.

The minimum period for which you can take carer's leave is 13 weeks and the maximum period is 104 weeks (two years). This leave is unpaid but you may be able to qualify for Carer's Benefit or Carer's Allowance (see above).

#### For more information

Carer's Benefit/Allowance Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Ballinalee Road  
Co. Longford

**Locall:** 1890 927 770

**t:** 043 334 0000

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### RESPITE CARE GRANT

In June of each year, the Department of Social Protection automatically issues a Respite Care Grant to carers getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or the Domiciliary Care Allowance. Carers can use the grant in whatever way they wish. You can use the grant to pay for respite care if you wish, but you do not have to use it for this purpose.

**Note:** You do not qualify if you are working more than 15 hours per week outside the home, if you are getting an unemployment payment or if you are signing on for unemployment credits.

#### Rate

The Respite Care Grant rate is €1,700 in 2012. It is usually paid in June for each person you are caring for. It is not taxable.

#### How to Apply

The Respite Care Grant is issued automatically if you are getting the Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or the Domiciliary Care Allowance. If you are not getting one of these payments you must apply for the grant (application forms available online or from your Social Welfare Local Office).



## HEALTH SERVICE ENTITLEMENTS

There are a number of schemes to help families with medical costs including the Long Term Illness Card, Medical Card and GP Visit Card.

### LONG TERM ILLNESS SCHEME

Cystic Fibrosis is a long-term illness that is recognised under this scheme. If you apply to the Long Term Illness Scheme your child will be supplied with a Long Term Illness book. This book lists the drugs and medicines for the treatment of your child's condition, which will be provided to you for free through your community pharmacist. It does not depend on your income or other circumstances. Most of the medications needed to treat CF are covered under the LTI scheme free of charge.

#### How to Apply

Application forms for the Long Term Illness Scheme are not available online. You can get an application form from your Family Doctor (GP) or your Local Health Office. Send the completed application form directly to your Local Health Office.

To qualify for a medical card your weekly income must be below a certain figure for your family size. Cash income, savings, investments and property (except for your own home) are taken into account in the means test.

Your eligibility for the medical card is reviewed regularly.

#### How to Apply

Applying online is the fastest route: [www.medicalcard.ie](http://www.medicalcard.ie).

You can also get the application form and a list of participating GPs from your local health centre or Local Health Office for your area.

#### For more information

Locall 1890 252 919 or contact your Local Health Office if you have any questions about medical cards and eligibility.

You can also contact the HSE Infoline on 1850 24 1850.

HSE Central Medical Card Office  
Client Registration Unit  
P.O Box 11745  
Finglas  
Dublin 11

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### MEDICAL CARD

People with CF are not entitled automatically to the medical card, as it depends on family income. Medical Cards allow people to access a GP services, community health services, limited dental services, hospital care and a range of other benefits free of charge.

### GP VISIT CARDS

If you do not qualify for a medical card, you may apply for a GP Visit Card. GP Visit Cards allow you to visit your family doctor for free. Eligibility for GP Visit Cards is means tested, but the income guidelines for the GP Visit Card are 50% higher than those for the medical card.

### How to Apply

To apply for a GP Visit Card, apply in the same way as for a medical card. While your GP Visit Card application is being processed, the HSE will also assess your entitlement for a full medical card.



## TAX CREDITS AND RELIEFS

This section addresses the various tax credits and reliefs that have been established to help with certain costs of disability.

### INCAPACITATED CHILD TAX CREDIT

Parents can claim the Incapacitated Child Credit if their child has Cystic Fibrosis. This is effectively a discount off your tax bill. The credit is available in respect of each incapacitated child.

#### Rate

In 2012, the Incapacitated Child Tax Credit is €3,300.

#### How to Apply

Contact your local tax office outlining the credit claimed and the name(s) of the child(ren). A first claim should be accompanied by a doctor's certificate showing:

- The date the incapacity first arose (date of diagnosis)
- The degree and extent of the incapacity



You can claim this credit by completing the claim form 'Claim for Incapacitated Child Tax Credit' on the Revenue website or by contacting your Regional Revenue LoCall Service.

### TAX RELIEF ON MEDICAL EXPENSES

You may claim tax relief on some of medical expenses that are not covered by the State or by private health insurance.

The following expenses also qualify, which, at first glance might not appear obvious. These include:

- Supply, maintenance, repair of any appliance used on advice of a medical practitioner
- Physiotherapy where prescribed
- Food products for diabetics
- Home nursing

And specifically for incapacitated children:

- Travel costs incurred taking the child to and from hospital
- Travel costs incurred going to and from a hospital to visit a child – where such trips are shown to be essential to the treatment of the child

- Telephone allowance (€300) where the child is being treated at home
- Overnight accommodation for parents at or near the hospital where the child is a patient where such overnight stay is necessary for the treatment of the child
- Hygiene products and special clothing (e.g., gloves or apron) subject to a maximum of €500 per year

**Note:** Vouched bus, train, plane and taxi fares are allowable. If a car is used, a mileage allowance of €0.36 per mile or €0.26 per kilometre is allowed.

### Rate

Tax relief on medical and health expenses incurred since 1 January 2009 is given at the standard rate of 20%.

### How to Apply

The Med1 form needs to be completed. You can get this online or text '51829' with the word 'FORM' followed by your PPS number and 'MED1'. You should complete a Med 1 form at the end of the tax year. You can make claims retrospectively for the previous four years.

You can only claim for medical expenses if you have receipts to prove your claim. Do not send your medical receipts with your Med 1 form. However, you must keep your medical receipts for six years because Revenue may investigate your claim.

### For more information on tax relief

Log on to [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) or contact your local revenue office.

## APPEALS

If you have been refused any of the above entitlements/allowances, and are not satisfied with the decision, you can appeal the decision and request a review of the application. We would recommend getting a letter of support from the CF Consultant to explain more about your child's condition in support of this appeal.

CFAI are also happy to support you in this respect so please contact the CF Advocates Tomas or Caroline, or call the National Office for more information on how we can help you through this process.

### SOCIAL WELFARE APPEALS

If you have been refused a social welfare benefit or you disagree with a decision of a Social Welfare Deciding Officer you should appeal within 21 days of the decision.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office is an independent agency. It is not part of the Department of Social Protection. For more information, log on to [www.socialwelfareappeals.ie](http://www.socialwelfareappeals.ie).

### HSE

If you are unhappy with a decision made by the HSE concerning your entitlement to a Medical Card or GP Visit Card, you have the right of appeal to the HSE Appeals Officer.

For more information log on to: [www.hse.ie/eng/services/ysys/Appeals/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/ysys/Appeals/)



**Note:** It is important that you set out your case fully and provide grounds for the appeal.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### For More Information and Advice on Entitlements for Families of Children with Cystic Fibrosis:

- Link in with the Social Worker at your CF centre
- Refer to the Citizens Information Website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie), freephone 0761 07 4000 or call into your local Citizens Information Centre
- Entitlements for Children with Disabilities, a publication by the Citizens Information Board, 2010 [www.citizensinformationboard.ie/publications/entitlements/downloads/children\\_with\\_disabilities.pdf](http://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/publications/entitlements/downloads/children_with_disabilities.pdf) (also available for free inside your local Citizen's Information Centre)
- Refer to the Department of Social Protection website [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)
- Call our CFAI Patient Advocates Tomas Thompson or Caroline Heffernan
- Contact the CFAI National Office

Carer's Allowance/ Benefit Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Department of Social Protection  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford  
**t:** 043 334 0000  
**Locall:** 1890 92 77 70  
**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Citizens Information Helpline  
**t:** 0761 07 4000

CFAI National Office  
24 Lower Rathmines Road  
Dublin 6  
**t:** 01 496 2433  
**e:** [info@cfireland.ie](mailto:info@cfireland.ie)  
**w:** [www.cfireland.ie](http://www.cfireland.ie)

Domiciliary Care Allowance  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Department of Social Protection  
College Road, Sligo  
**t:** 071 915 7100  
**Locall:** 1890 500 000  
**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

HSE Central Medical Card Office  
Client Registration Unit  
P.O Box 11745  
Finglas, Dublin 11  
**w:** [www.medicalcard.ie](http://www.medicalcard.ie)

HSE Info Line  
**t:** 1850 24 1850

Revenue  
**w:** [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)



## About the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland (CFAI)

The CFAI is a registered charity CHY 6350 that was set up by parents in 1963 to improve the treatment and facilities for people with CF in Ireland. It is a national organisation with many Branches around the country.

The CFAI is committed to working to improve CF services in Ireland and our recent progress includes:

- Lobbying to ensure that the new national adult CF centre in St Vincent's University Hospital was completed
- Providing funding towards new CF Units around the country including Crumlin, Drogheda, Galway, Mayo and Limerick Hospitals
- Funding research in Cork University Hospital, St Vincent's University Hospital and University College Dublin
- Campaigning to improve the rate of double lung transplantation in Ireland
- Providing advice, information and advocacy services

Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland  
CF House  
24 Lower Rathmines Road  
Dublin 6  
Ireland

t: +353 1 496 2433  
f: +353 1 496 2201  
e: [info@cfireland.ie](mailto:info@cfireland.ie)  
w: [www.cfireland.ie](http://www.cfireland.ie)  
Company Reg: 449954  
Charity: CHY6350

