

Illness Benefit

Illness Benefit is a payment for PAYE workers who cannot work due to illness. It is aimed at those with a short-term illness. The benefit is paid for a maximum of two years, and how long you get Illness Benefit depends on how much PRSI you have paid.

Cancer patients who can no longer work due to their diagnosis and/or treatment should apply for Illness Benefit. It is important to apply within 6 weeks of leaving work because of illness.

Who can apply?

To qualify for Illness Benefit you must:

- Be aged under 66
- Be certified by a doctor as being medically unfit for work
- Have at least 104 weeks' PRSI contributions since you first started work

AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Have 39 weeks' PRSI contributions paid or credited in the relevant tax year (13 of these must be paid contributions).
- Have 26 weeks' PRSI contributions paid in the tax year immediately before the year in which the claim is being made and 26 weeks' PRSI contributions paid in the relevant tax year.

The relevant tax year is the second-last complete tax year before the year in which your claim for Illness Benefit begins. For example:

Relevant tax year

If your claim begins in:	The relevant tax year is:
2020	2018
2021	2019

Rob (33) is a gym instructor and has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He will need to take some time off work to attend treatment. Although he has been working for several years for the same company, they do not offer any paid sick leave. However, he has enough PRSI contributions to apply for Illness Benefit for the duration of his illness. He will need to complete the Illness Benefit IB1 application form and request a 'Certificate of Incapacity for Work' from his doctor.

Weekly payment

Average weekly earnings	Weekly payment	Increase for an adult dependent
€300 or more	€203	€134.70
€220 - €299.99	€159	€87.20
€150 - €219.99	€131	€87.20
less than €150	€91.10	€87.20

Usually no payment is made for the first 3 days of illness.

You can get an increase in your payment for an adult dependent or [child dependent](#) if you meet certain conditions.

How can I apply?

You must apply for Illness Benefit within 6 weeks of leaving work because of illness and you must be medically unfit for work.

You must claim Illness Benefit from the first day you could not work because of illness.

Illness Benefit is not linked to your employer's policy on pay for sick leave. Whether your employer pays you or not while you are out sick from work you should claim Illness Benefit from the first day of your illness. If you get sick pay from work, you should ask your employer what administrative arrangements are in place while you are claiming Illness Benefit.

To claim Illness Benefit you will need to get a claim form (IB1) and a 'Certificate of Incapacity for Work' from your doctor. You will fill out the IB1 form and ask your doctor to complete the 'Certificate of Incapacity for Work'.

Some doctors can submit the 'Certificate of Incapacity for Work' online or you can send it with your IB1 Form to:

Illness Benefit
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
P.O. Box 1650
Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 704 3300
Locall: 1890 928 400
Email: illnessbenefit@welfare.ie
Website: www.welfare.ie

The information above is an overview of Illness Benefit

We won't give up until cancer does



For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

- Visit [Citizens Information](#) online
- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- Contact your Medical Social Worker