

Marie Curie

1 in 3 people who die from a chronic illness do not receive the benefits they are eligible for under the Special Rules

In 2023, Marie Curie successfully campaigned to change the prognostic threshold for the Special Rules at end of life from 6 to 12 months.

But our latest research shows thousands still miss out on this vital protection.

We're asking the DWP to improve healthcare professionals' awareness and use of this mechanism, and consider introducing a more flexible definition of terminal illness that removes the 12-month prognosis requirement.

Read our Special Rules report.

Are you a clinician?

Check out the BiteSize SR1 training

The research was funded via the Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme

RESEARCH BY

King's College London

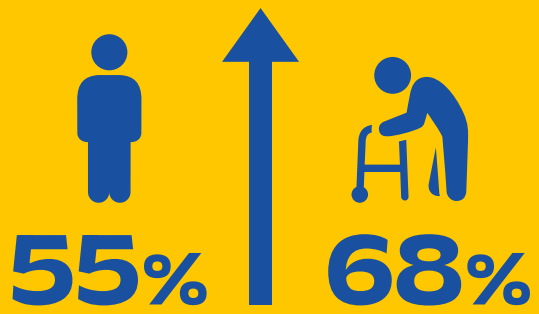
Charity reg no. 207994 (England & Wales), SC028731 (Scotland)

Key facts

1 in 3

In England and Wales, **1 in 3** people who die from a chronic illness (approximately **120,000** each year) do not receive the benefits they are eligible for under the Special Rules for End of Life

55% of working-age adults receive the benefits for which they are eligible under the Special Rules for End of Life, compared to **68%** of pension age adults

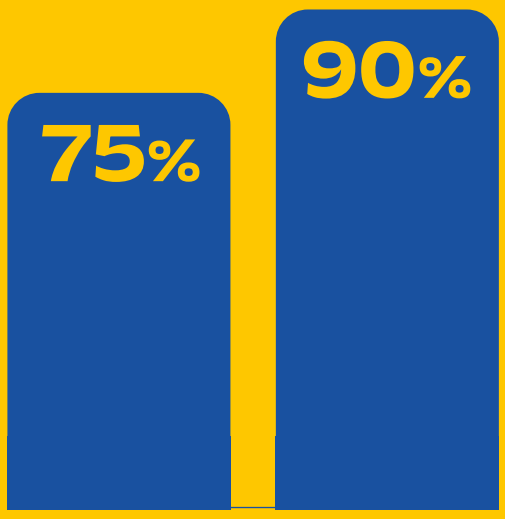


The take up rate of benefits varies between people with different chronic conditions

Lowest take up rates



Highest take up rates





While take-up rates are higher in more deprived areas in Wales and the North of England, substantial proportions of people in the most deprived neighbourhoods still do not receive these benefits.

34%
in the most depived quintile do not receive these benefits

37%
in the second most depived quintile do not receive these benefits