|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
| **Advice after receiving help with filling ESA50**  |

Thank you for approaching us for advice regarding your claim for employment support allowance, we have assisted you to complete a form ESA50 this factsheet provides information and advice on this matter.  You should **send the form to** Job Centre Plus (ideally by a recorded delivery). You should also obtain a medical certificate and any recent medical reports or assessments that give details of your health condition. Take a **photocopy** of the form.  An approved healthcare professional will consider the questionnaire and probably recommend that you attend a **medical assessment** if you are unfit to travel, you have to provide a supporting letter from your GP confirming this. If you miss the appointment, contact the Medical Centre as soon as you can and arrange another appointment. You have the right to have a friend, relative or support worker with you at the medical assessment. Do ask ESA team in advance if you need an interpreter or same sex health care professional. If you are not fluent in English I recommend take a friend/relative to interpret AND witness the assessment process, they can ensure there is no misinterpretation of your statement to the health professional.  **Your benefit may be stopped if you fail to attend a medical without good reason.**  You will find it useful if you prepare yourself for the day of your assessment and start taking some notes on everyday activities that you have difficulty with, medication and health treatments you have. Get clear picture of a typical day of your illness and how it affects you. Go through this form again before the assessment. Help with filling ESA50 | © Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network | November 2016 1 |
| **After the assessment** you will receive a **decision letter** it will state you have been placed either in 1. Work Related Activity Group
2. Support Group
3. State that you are capable of work and that they will stop ESA.
4. **Work Related Activity Group**

If you are placed in the Work Related Activity Group, you will continue to receive ESA but be expected to take part in work focused interviews or activities recommended by a personal adviser. You will get support to help you prepare for suitable work. In return, you will receive a work related activity component in addition to your basic rate. You must comply with activities they recommend or benefit could be sanctioned or stopped. The personal advisor must take into account any limitations you have and give you appropriate work related activities. Make sure they are fully aware of your situation and circumstances.  1. **Support Group**

If you are placed in the Support Group because your illness or disability has a severe effect on your ability to work, you will not be expected to take part in any work or activities. You will receive a support component in addition to your basic rate.  1. **Refused ESA or in Work Related Activity Group and should be Support Group**

After the assessment if you are refused ESA, or are considered to be in the work related activity group but consider you should be in the Support Group you have right to request a **mandatory** **revision of the decision within a month**.  Please return for further advice on how to do a mandatory reconsideration -­‐ we may be able to deal with the case for you or refer you to someone else who can help.  Alternatively you **may** be able to: * 1. claim Job Seekers Allowance – you have to be actively seeking and available for work to claim this
	2. put in a new claim for ESA if you have a new medical condition OR if you’re condition has seriously deteriorated
	3. if you have a partner other options may be available

Help with filling ESA50 | © Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network | November 2016 2 |