

Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme

Welcome to issue 9 of the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS)

Annual payment increase 3.1% to be paid from April 2022

The inflationary rate for payments in 2022-23 has been agreed at 3.1%. The rate is set for each financial year based on the rate of CPI for the previous September. See table below for revised payment levels.

Category	Current Payment	2022-23 Payment with 3.1% increase
Hepatitis C (HCV) Stage 2	£28,680	£29,569
HCV Stage 2 (Widows/ers/partners)	£21,510	£22,177
HCV Stage 1 - No noticeable impact	£9,456	£9,749
HCV Stage 1 - No noticeable (Widows)	£7,092	£7,312
HCV Stage 1 – Moderately affected	£18,912	£19,498
HCV Stage 1 – Moderate (Widows)	£14,184	£14,624
HCV Stage 1 – Severely affected	£28,680	£29,569
HCV Stage 1 – Severe (Widows)	£21,510	£22,177
Coinfected	£45,072	£46,469
Coinfected (Widows)	£33,804	£34,852
HIV	£28,680	£29,569
HIV (Widows)	£21,510	£22,177

Letters/emails have been sent to all members in receipt of a regular payment. Please contact SIBSS if you have not received one.

Travel and Life Insurance – advice for beneficiaries

As you know, seeking insurance and finding the best deal can be very complex. The Association of British Insurers has provided some links to information you may find useful if you are looking for either travel or life insurance.

For **travel insurance**, often price comparison websites are useful or, if you pay for your bank account, this may provide good quality travel insurance. If you have difficulties finding a reasonable quote from price comparison sites, see the [moneyhelper](#) website for a list of insurance companies who specialise in travel insurance for people with medical conditions.

A range of factors will affect any quotes you are given, including your age and any other medical conditions you have. Otherwise, insurers may charge people with a medical condition more, but they will take account of how severe your condition is and how likely you are to need treatment while you are away. If you had Hepatitis C, but this has been treated and you have achieved a sustained viral response several years ago you would normally only need to declare your Hepatitis C infection to the insurer if you have cirrhosis or other physical conditions as a result (for example if you have needed fairly recent hospital treatment or need to take regular medication). If you have HIV, insurers should no longer charge a higher premium for this if you have an undetectable viral load and a sufficiently high CD4 cell count.

Similarly, if you are looking to take out **life insurance**, you need to declare any existing medical conditions and these will be taken into account in your premiums, depending on how severe your condition is. If you have difficulties or are unsure which insurer to use, you may find it helpful to use an insurance broker, who can help find the best insurer for you. See <https://insurance.biba.org.uk/find-insurance> to search for a broker.

You can find links to these webpages and also a guide on HIV and Life Insurance on the SIBSS website under 'Guide to SIBSS' in the 'Find Further Support' section.

Care Home charges

If you decide in future to move into a residential care home, new Regulations brought forward by the Scottish Government will mean any payments you receive from SIBSS will not be taken into account when your Council assesses your income to decide if you need to pay any fees to cover your costs. These changes will come into force on 11 April 2022 - further information will be provided on the SIBSS website in the 'Tax and Benefits' section once the new rules are in place.



Your Advisory Group Needs You!

If you are a beneficiary in receipt of regular payments, do you have what it takes to represent Scheme members by joining the Advisory Group?

A strong advisory group will ensure that the Scottish scheme takes account of beneficiaries' concerns and views on areas for operational scheme improvement, in light of the budget available. It will provide advice on positive action to ensure that lessons are learned, that trust in the scheme is maintained as far as possible and that the available budget is targeted effectively.

The Group should ensure respect and courtesy between beneficiaries and scheme administrators and others involved in contributing to the scheme, such as medical professionals. The Group will need to sustain the confidence of the public, beneficiaries and the NHS through demonstrable impartiality.

Contact the SIBSS team if you are interested in joining.

[Learn about the advisory group](#)

The Scottish Infected Blood Psychology Service (SIBPS)

SIBPS was established in May 2021 to support the emotional well-being of people who were infected, or affected, by contaminated blood and/or blood products in Scotland up to 1991.

We welcome self-referrals from people who contracted Hepatitis C and /or HIV, and their relatives. If you feel you would benefit from this service please telephone **0131 537 9128** and we will post out a referral form.

For more information go to our website:

<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/2186/scottish-infected-blood-psychology-service-sibps-patient-information-leaflet.pdf>

Did you know?

- If you do not have access to the internet, or prefer to talk directly, the SIBSS team are happy to give advice and assistance over the phone.
- If you receive a regular payment; you can request a monthly remittance advice to be sent to you.
- You need to inform us if you move address or your circumstances change. See link to change of detail form. [SIBSS Change of Details Form](#)

Links Section

[Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme \(SIBSS\)](#)
[Grant Information](#)
[Support Groups](#)
[Scottish Government Website](#)
[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Contact Us

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