

A charity dedicated to helping people suffering from asbestos-related diseases and their families throughout the South of England, South East, London and Home Counties.

Providing a complete source of help and support for anyone with an asbestos-related disease and their loved ones.

Our free services include:

Home visits

Information about asbestos-related diseases

Help and advice on benefits and compensation

Monthly support group coffee mornings

We cover a wide area across the South of England including:

Bath & North	Bucks	Bristol	Milton Keynes
East Somerset	Surrey	Swindon	Luton
Dorset	West Sussex	Poole	Southend
Wiltshire	East Sussex	Bournemouth	Brighton & Hove
Hampshire	Bedford	Portsmouth	London
Isle of Wight	Herts	Reading	Middlesex
Oxfordshire	Essex	Windsor	
West Berkshire	Kent	Slough	

If you have any questions regarding your area, please contact the team: info@hasag.co.uk

Contact our team:

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“Providing free support, guidance and information to people with asbestos diseases.”

Our History



During their father's illness, the family were surprised by just how many people suffer in the UK due to exposure to asbestos and the lack of help and support available for those affected and their loved ones. Having experienced first-hand the devastating impact of an asbestos-related illness and how little information, guidance and support was available, they decided there was an urgent need for change. HASAG was launched initially in Hampshire to help asbestos sufferers and their loved ones to raise awareness of asbestos-related diseases. It now helps people across the South of England, including London and the Home Counties.

HASAG is committed to improving the lives of people affected by asbestos. We are also involved in campaigning and lobbying the Government for improved research into treatment and better availability of drugs and specialist medical care.

In October 2006, HASAG supported a lobby at the House of Commons, to campaign for the provision of the chemotherapy drug, Alimta to be made available on the NHS.

HASAG has also represented asbestos sufferers at the Government's Mesothelioma Summit and hosted Action Mesothelioma Day in Portsmouth in 2008. This is now an annual event, supported by the British Lung Foundation, to raise awareness of mesothelioma and to call for better treatment and care for mesothelioma patients.

Since its launch, HASAG has raised £300,000 for Mesothelioma UK and for more research into asbestos-related illnesses.

The HASAG team includes Lisa Booth and Alison Squibb who, together with Lynne, are dedicated to supporting asbestos sufferers and their families and providing the understanding, support, guidance and information they feel everyone should be entitled to in their time of need.

Founded in 2006 by Diane and Lynne, in memory of their father Dave Salisbury, who suffered from the asbestos-related disease mesothelioma.

Pleural Plaques and Thickening

Pleural plaques are small areas of thickening on the lining of the lungs (pleura). They are usually about the size of a coin, can be present on one or both lungs and become harder and calcified over time. They do not, in themselves, cause any symptoms but do act as an indicator of exposure to asbestos. Compensation for pleural plaques is not available in England and Wales but is possible in Scotland.

In pleural thickening the patches are more widespread and both layers of the pleura may be involved. Pleural thickening can cause the lungs to be restricted and not expand properly which may lead to breathlessness. There are other causes of pleural thickening such as infection, inflammatory disease and benign (non cancerous) pleural effusion (fluid around the lungs) and in all cases one or both lungs may be involved.

Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the lining of the lungs or, more rarely, the lining of the abdomen (peritoneal mesothelioma) with virtually all cases believed to be caused by exposure to asbestos. There are approximately 2500 cases of mesothelioma diagnosed in the UK every year although it is expected that this figure will continue to rise in the next few years. Treatments have historically been limited but there are more therapies emerging that may have an impact on symptoms and survival.

Asbestosis

Asbestosis is a type of pulmonary (lung) fibrosis or scarring of the lungs caused by inhaling asbestos fibres or dust, often through exposure at work. It is a benign or non-cancerous condition. The body's reaction to the asbestos fibres causes damage to the fragile air sacs in the lungs, making it more difficult for oxygen to get into the bloodstream which may result in breathlessness.

Unfortunately the damage done to the lungs by asbestos cannot be reversed and may continue to progress. Having asbestosis can increase your risk of lung cancer.

We offer a free and confidential service which includes help and information about asbestos-related diseases.

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer was the third most common cancer diagnosed in the UK in 2014 (CRUK). In most cases it is caused by smoking, so it is advisable to stop if you can. Support to do this is available from your GP or local 'stop smoking' services.

However, more than 10% of people with lung cancer have never smoked. It is recognised that being exposed to asbestos can increase your risk of developing lung cancer.

Benefits

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB)

IIDB can be claimed if exposure to asbestos occurred through employed work. We can provide you with the relevant form and can assist you with the application.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Attendance Allowance

PIP is awarded under two components – mobility and living. PIP and Attendance Allowance are essentially the same benefit. PIP can be claimed if you are aged under 65 and require assistance with your personal care. If you are over 65 and need help with personal care, the benefit is called Attendance Allowance and that can be claimed instead.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

ESA replaces Incapacity Benefit & Income Support, previously paid on incapacity grounds and is also available if you are in employment or self employed.

Blue Badge

You may also be entitled to a Blue Badge, we can apply for this for you.

We can provide you with more information and advice on the benefits you may be entitled to - please contact us for further details.

Carer's Allowance

If someone helps look after you then once PIP or Attendance Allowance is received, your carer may also be entitled to Carer's Allowance.

Asbestos-related disease sufferers are entitled to claim certain benefits.

Government Lump Sum Payments

If you are suffering from an asbestos-related disease, you and your family may also be entitled to a lump sum benefit.

The Government established the Workers' Compensation Act 1979 and Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme 2008 to provide lump sum payments in certain circumstances to people with asbestos-related diseases.

Workers' Compensation Act 1979

To get a payment under this scheme, you must be eligible for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) and meet the following conditions:

- Your illness must have been caused by your employment
- You must claim within 12 months of the decision awarding IIDB
- You can't or you haven't taken civil action because your former employer has stopped trading
- You haven't brought a court action or received compensation from an employer in respect of the disease

It does not cover you if you are self-employed.

You may be able to make a claim if you are the dependant of someone who suffered from an asbestos-related disease but who has died. A dependant claim must be made within 12 months of the death of the sufferer.

2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment

You may still be able to get a payment for an asbestos-related disease if you are not eligible for compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act 1979.

You can claim for the 2008 scheme if you came into contact with asbestos:

- While you were self employed
- Through a family member (E.g. by washing their clothes)
- Or you do not know how you came into contact with asbestos

Asbestos-related disease sufferers are entitled to claim certain benefits.

We can provide you with more advice on how to apply for a Government Lump Sum Payment and help you to complete the forms - please contact us for details.

- Military/ Ex personnel

Patients diagnosed with Mesothelioma who were exposed to asbestos during their service may be entitled to either a lump sum or weekly payment. This is a different scheme than that of civilians. HASAG can help you apply for this

Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (Dmps 2014)

You may be able to claim if all of the following conditions apply:

- You were diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012
- Your mesothelioma was caused by exposure to asbestos when working in the UK
- You can't trace the employer that exposed you to asbestos, or their insurers
- You haven't made a civil claim against any employer or insurer
- You may also be able to claim if you are the dependant of a sufferer who has died.

You can claim through the DMPS even if you have already claimed from the 2008 scheme or under the Workers Compensation Act 1979. If you've already got a payment from the 2008 scheme or the 1979 Act, it will be deducted from the amount you get from DMPS.

Unfortunately, the scheme does not benefit those with other asbestos-related diseases such as lung cancer who are in a similar position or family members exposed from the clothing of others.

At HASAG, we have a panel of recommended specialist asbestos disease solicitors who work hard to ensure those eligible for DMPS receive the compensation they are entitled to as soon as possible.

Mesothelioma sufferers have faced many legal challenges in recent years and we will continue to fight for their rights. We are passionate about ensuring patients and their families receive full and fair financial security.

Compensation to mesothelioma sufferers who cannot trace the employer that exposed them to asbestos, or their insurers.

Legal Help

Incredibly, as far back as the late 19th century, UK industry knew of the dangers of asbestos. However, sadly, thousands of people from all walks of life have been exposed to potentially deadly asbestos fibres over the years. Legislation exists to help people suffering from asbestos-related diseases and their families to seek compensation for wrongful exposure and reduced quality of life.

Most compensation claims are made against sufferers' former employers although it does not necessarily matter if the employer is no longer trading. The claim can be brought against the employer's insurance company and this can happen many decades after the asbestos exposure.

Although less common it is still possible, in certain circumstances, to bring a claim if you were exposed to asbestos environmentally or through a third party, e.g. washing a family member's work clothes.

We recommend you bring a compensation claim as soon as possible as there are time limits to bringing claims of this nature. Some people worry about having to attend Court but very few claims progress to a full hearing. The choice of solicitor to assist with your claim is entirely up to you; however it's a good idea to speak to us first as we can put you in touch with solicitors who specialise in asbestos-related disease claims.

At HASAG, we insist that solicitors must only represent asbestos sufferers and not defendants in disease claims.

The panel of specialist asbestos disease solicitors we recommend offer:

- Home visits throughout the UK
- No cost to patients or their family
- No upfront fees
- 100% of the compensation to be received by the patient and their family with no deductions for legal fees
- Years of experience providing specialist asbestos disease legal expertise

Many patients and their families are unaware that they have a right to make a claim for compensation against their employer.

Meet Our Team



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“Get the best benefit advice from the best people”.