



# Universal credit: What's new and what can community nurses do to mitigate impact?

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3 April 2019 Twitter **@COPEscotland @CPAGScotland**

# Lets be in the room

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<http://www.cope-scotland.org/index.php/self-care/video-gallery/video/relaxation-in-just-3-minutes>



# Aim of the workshop

- Experience brief relaxation technique to support self care
- Hear about the latest with Universal Credit
- Consider the roles of Nurses as Catalysts for Change
- Opportunity to discuss experiences
- Experience tips to manage stress

DON'T  
PANIC!

GET  
ADVICE

**UC** *Universal  
Credit*

DON'T  
MISS  
OUT

KNOW  
YOUR  
RIGHTS

# What is universal credit?

- Claim online
- Working age
- Means-tested
- In or out of work
- One payment for adults, children, housing costs, childcare
- Assessed and paid monthly



# Rollout of UC

- Some severely disabled claimants prevented from claiming UC
- Anyone else can now claim UC
- Existing claimants can stay on 'old benefits', but may move onto UC if circumstances change
- Migration of claimants on old benefits onto UC from 2020-2024



# Impact of UC on certain claimant groups

- Families with disabled children
- Larger families
- Sick or disabled adults
- Couples where one is over pension age
- Under 25s
- Students



# The impact of UC on community nurses

- People asking for help to claim online?
- Ongoing support to manage claim/money?
- Delays, sanctions, rent arrears, debt?
- Physical health issues?
- Mental health issues?
- Moving into work?



# What's new?



Social Security Scotland  
Dignity, fairness, respect.

## Best Start Grant:

- £600 for first child/£300 for other baby
- Claim from 24 weeks pregnant to 6 months
- £250 early education payment (by summer 2019)
- £250 school age (from 3 June 2019)
- any universal credit is a qualifying benefit

## Best Start Foods: (by summer 2019)

- £4.25 pw smartcard to replace Healthy Start
- universal credit if earning below a certain level

# What's new?



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Dignity, fairness, respect.

## **Carer's Allowance Supplement:**

- Automatically paid to eligible carers

## **Young carer's grant (by autumn 2019)**

- For carers aged 16-18

## **Funeral Expenses Assistance (by summer 2019)**

- Apply within six months of funeral
- Any universal credit will be a qualifying benefit

## **Disability benefits**

- Devolved versions being developed by 2021

# What more you can do

- Basic awareness about universal credit and welfare reform
- Referral to local income maximisation service
- Access help in emergencies
- Tell us about the impact of welfare reform on physical and mental health

# Making referrals



- Ask about ‘money worries’ for **everyone**
- Call Citizens Advice on **0800 085 7145** for free Financial Health Check
- Make links with local advice agency
- Referral: arrange appointment, check attended/outcome



# EARLY WARNING SYSTEM NEEDS YOU!



- The EWS gathers information about the impacts of welfare reform from frontline workers
- Identifies issues and trends
- Uses information to campaign, suggest good practice to mitigate impacts of welfare reform and inform the media
- **Please give us your case studies!**
  - on EWS questionnaire
  - sign up to submit more online
- [www.cpag.org.uk/scotland/early-warning-system](http://www.cpag.org.uk/scotland/early-warning-system)

# Resources

- CPAG handbooks:
  - *Universal credit: what you need to know*
  - *Financial help for families*
  - *Welfare benefits and tax credit handbook*
- CPAG website [www.cpag.org.uk](http://www.cpag.org.uk):
  - UC factsheets
  - Welfare Rights Bulletin articles
  - Scottish benefits latest



Do you work with clients  
who have questions  
about **benefits**, **tax credits**  
or **universal credit**?

**CHILD  
POVERTY  
ACTION  
GROUP**  
IN SCOTLAND

Advice line for frontline advisers and support workers in Scotland

**0141 552 0552**

Monday–Thursday 10am–4pm  
Friday 10am–12 noon  
[advice@cpagscotland.org.uk](mailto:advice@cpagscotland.org.uk)

# Nurses as Catalysts for Change

<http://www.cope-scotland.org/index.php/self-care/video-gallery/video/living-with-inequality>





# Your experience as a Catalyst for Change



