

Application of the European Code of Social Security by the Netherlands

50th Annual Report: General report 2017

(1-7-2016 30-6-2017)

I GENERAL

No important changes during the report period

A. Administration/ Organization

No important changes during the report period

B. Benefits

See new rates from 1-1-2017 in the relevant chapters in this report

II MEDICAL CARE

A. Health Insurance Act (Zorgverzekeringswet (Zvw))

▪ *Indexation of the compulsory deductible*

For 2016, the yearly indexation did not lead to a change in the compulsory deductible. The compulsory deductible remains €385.

Types of health care which are exempt from the compulsory deductible:

- General practitioner care
- Obstetric care
- Maternity care
- Care related to certain chronic illnesses (Diabetes type 2, COPD, CVR)
- District nursing services
- Care and travel costs related to organ donation
- All types of health care delivered to children under the age of 18

▪ *Changes to the basket of care*

The following changes have been made to the basket of care on January 1st 2017:

- Several types of medically necessary plastic surgery have been added:
 - Correction of the upper eyelid in case vision is severely impaired;
 - Breast augmentation for trans females who have no breast development after hormone therapy;
- Medically necessary circumcision.
- Physiotherapy to treat individuals in case of intermittent claudication. 37 physiotherapy sessions to treat intermittent claudication are now part of the basket of care.

B. Long-term Care Act (Wet langdurige zorg (Wlz))

▪ *Changes to the basket of care*

The following change has been made to the basket of care on 1 January 1 2017:

- Household support has been included for individuals who are entitled to the so-called "modular package at home" (Modulair pakket thuis (MPT)). Household support was already part of the basket of care for those insured persons that receive care in a care/nursing home or at home with either a so-called "complete package at home" (Volledig pakket thuis (VPT)) or a "personal care budget" (Persoonsgebonden budget (PGB)).

III SICKNESS BENEFITS

No important changes during the report period

IV UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

As from 1 January 2016 the rules for unemployment benefits, aimed at reforming the Unemployment Insurance Act in such a way that people will return to work sooner, have taken effect.

The maximum unemployment benefit period of 38 months will be reduced by one month every quarter. As of 2019, the maximum unemployment benefit period will be 2 years. Accrual of the time for unemployment benefit will also be changed; during the first 10 years of employment, one month of unemployment benefit will be accrued for each year of employment. In subsequent years, 0.5 months of unemployment benefit will be accrued for each year of employment.

According to the articles 3 and 4 'Besluit passende arbeid WW (Decision suitable employment Unemployment Insurance Act)' of 1 January 2015, the obligation to take on any work generally accepted as suitable will take effect after six months of unemployment. Any kind of work, irrespective of education and training requirements and wage level, is considered suitable under the WW for all individuals who are still unemployed after 12 months. Self-employment and sheltered employment are both not considered to be suitable employment according to article 24 §3 of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

V OLD AGE BENEFITS

The age to qualify for old age benefit rises to 65 years and 9 months in 2017. The pension age is being gradually increased to 66 years in 2018 and 67 in 2021. As from 2022, it will be linked to life expectancy.

Benefit rates as from 1 January 2017

You live on your own (you are single)

Monthly amount

	with tax credit	without tax credit
Gross *	€ 1,153.35	€ 1,153.35
Tax and national insurance contributions €	0.00	€ 214.83
Zvw contribution	€ 62.28	€ 62.28
Net	€ 1,091.07	€ 876.24

* The gross amount includes the AOW top-up of € 25.56. The gross amount excludes the holiday allowance. The holiday allowance is € 71.61 gross per month and is paid in May of each year.

You are married or living with a partner

Beneficiary and partner both receive an AOW pension

Monthly amount per person

	tax credit applied	tax credit not applied
Gross *	€ 794.59	€ 794.59
Tax and national insurance contributions € 0.00		€ 147.67
Zvw contribution	€ 42.90	€ 42.90
Net	€ 751.69	€ 604.02

* The gross amount includes the AOW top-up of € 25.56. The gross amount does not include holiday allowance. The holiday allowance comes to € 51.15 gross per month and is paid each year in May.

Partner does not yet receive an AOW pension; beneficiary does not receive a supplementary allowance

Monthly amount

	tax credit applied	tax credit not applied
Gross *	€ 794.59	€ 794.59
Tax and national insurance contributions € 0.00		€ 147.67
Zvw contribution	€ 42.90	€ 42.90
Net	€ 751.69	€ 604.02

* The gross amount includes the AOW top-up of € 25.56. The gross amount does not include holiday allowance. The holiday allowance is € 51.15 gross per month and is paid each year in May.

Partner does not yet receive an AOW pension; beneficiary receives a full supplementary allowance

Monthly amount

	tax credit applied	tax credit not applied
Gross *	€ 1,563.62	€ 1,563.62
Tax and national insurance contributions	€ 87.58	€ 291.17
Zvw contribution	€ 84.43	€ 84.43
Net	€ 1,391.61	€ 1,188.02

* The gross amount includes the AOW top-up of € 25.56. The gross amount does not include holiday allowance. The holiday allowance is € 102.30 gross per month and is paid each year in May.

*Partner does not yet receive an AOW pension; beneficiary's supplementary allowance is reduced by 10%***

Monthly amount

	tax credit applied	tax credit not applied
Gross *	€ 1,486.72	€ 1,486.72
Tax and national insurance contributions	€ 73.33	€ 276.92
Zvw contribution	€ 80.28	€ 80.28
Net	€ 1,333.10	€ 1,129.52

* The gross amount includes the AOW top-up of € 25.56. The gross amount does not include holiday allowance. The holiday allowance is € 97.18 gross per month and is paid each year in May.

** Since 1 August 2011, the supplementary allowance can be reduced by up to 10%. This reduction applies to households with a joint monthly income of € 2,714.68 gross or more.

How the benefit levels are composed

Gross

This includes the AOW top-up of € 25.56, but not the monthly amount for holiday allowance. The holiday allowance is paid in May.

Tax and national insurance contributions

The amounts are shown after deduction of tax credit as well as without deduction of tax credit. The amounts without deduction of tax credit apply if tax credit is deducted from other income.

Contribution Zorgverzekeringswet (Zvw)

This amount is 5.40% of the gross AOW pension.

Net

This is the amount that one actually receives each month.

VI WORK ACCIDENT AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE BENEFITS

Not applicable anymore

VII FAMILY BENEFITS

The amount of the child benefit depends on the age of the child. One will get a higher amount when the child becomes 6, and again when the child becomes 12. The benefit is paid per quarter/ every three months.

Double amounts of child benefit (twice the basic rate) can be paid if the child is not living at home because of an illness, a disability or for education and the conditions of the General Child Benefit Act (AKW) are met.

Benefit rates as from 1 January 2017

Per child (0-5 years old)	€198.38 per quarter
Per child (6-12 years old)	€240.89 per quarter
Per child (12-17 years old)	€283.40 per quarter

VIII MATERNITY BENEFITS

Paid maternity leave will be expanded if the child is in hospital for more than 7 days. The expanded leave makes it possible that the mother can be at home with her newborn child during 10 weeks. The maternity benefit will be granted accordingly during this expanded leave and is equivalent to 100% of the so-called 'daily wage' of the female worker, this means the same rate as the regular maternity benefit.

The Social Insurance Institute (Uitvoeringsinstituut werknemersverzekeringen) is the administrative body responsible for administration of the expanded maternity benefit, as is the case with the regular maternity benefit.

IX INVALIDITY BENEFITS

No important changes during the report period

X SURVIVORS' BENEFITS

The benefits paid under the National Survivor Benefits Act (Anw) are financial support from the government for people whose partner has died, and for children who are orphaned.

Benefit rates as from 1 January 2017

Single survivor	€1164.89 gross per month	€85.73 holiday allowance gross per month	€16.79 Anw top up gross per month
Orphan (up to age 9)	€372.76 gross per month	€27.42 holiday allowance gross per month	€16.79 Anw top up gross per month
Orphan (10-15 years old)	€559.15 gross per month	€41.15 holiday allowance gross per month	€16.79 Anw top up gross per month
Orphan (16 - 20 years old)	€745.53 gross per month	€54.87 holiday allowance gross per month	€16.79 Anw top up gross per month

XI FINANCING

No important changes during the report period