Disability Evaluation Under Social Security

Part I - General Information

Program Description:

1) Title II of the Social Security Act: Social Security disability insurance (SSDI)

2) Title XVI of the Act: Supplemental security income (SSI)

3) Define Disability (Adult)

4) Define Disability (Children)

5) Define a Medically Determinable Impairment

The Disability Determination Process:

1) State and Federal Office Roles in the Disability Program Process:
   A. Social Security Field Offices (SSFO): Application.
   B. State Disability Determination Services (DDS): Determination.

2) The Role of the Health Professional
   A) Treating Sources
   B) Consultative Examiners for the DDS
   C) Program Medical Professionals
   D) Medical Experts

Confidentiality of Records: Protection for the claimant

1) The Freedom of Information Act

2) The Privacy Act
Part II - Evidentiary Requirements

1. Medical Evidence

2. Acceptable Medical Sources

3. Medical Evidence from Treating Sources
   A) Diagnosis: Severe or non-severe?
   B) Treatment

4. Medical Evidence From Health Facilities:

5. Other Evidence:
   A. Past Relevant Work- Substantial Gainful Activity or not?
   B. Activities of Daily Living - Physical and Cognitive Function

6. Medical Reports:

7. Consultative Examinations:

8. Consultative Examination Report Content:

9. Evidence Relating to Symptoms:

Social Security Eligibility

The Disability Determination Process
Part III - Listing Of Impairments

Part A of the Listing of Impairments contains medical criteria that apply to the evaluation of impairments in adults age 18 and over.

Part B of the Listing of Impairments contains additional medical criteria that apply only to the evaluation of impairments of persons under age 18.

1.00  **Musculoskeletal System** (function: ability to ambulate effectively or perform fine and gross movements effectively

**Major dysfunction of joint(s)** characterized by:
- W/defect, pain and stiffness with ROM limitations, x-ray of joint space narrowing, bony destruction, w/ involvement of a major weight-bearing joint (i.e., hip, knee, or ankle), resulting in inability to ambulate effectively; or:
- major peripheral joint in each upper extremity (i.e., shoulder, elbow, or wrist-hand), resulting in inability to perform fine and gross movements effectively

**Reconstructive surgery of a major weight-bearing joint,**
- inability to ambulate effectively did not occur, or is not expected to occur, within 12 months of onset.

**Disorders of the spine** (osteoarthritis, degenerative disc disease)
- Evidence of nerve root compression characterized by neuro-anatomic distribution of pain, limitation of motion of the spine, motor loss (atrophy with associated muscle weakness or muscle weakness) accompanied by sensory or reflex loss and, if there is involvement of the lower back, positive straight-leg raising test

**Amputation**
- Both hands
  - **One or both lower extremities** at or above the tarsal region, with stump complications resulting in medical inability to use a prosthetic device to ambulate effectively which have lasted or are expected to last for at least 12 months;
  - **One hand and one lower extremity** at or above the tarsal region, with inability to ambulate effectively
- **Hemipelvectomy or hip disarticulation**

**Fracture of the femur, tibia, pelvis, or one or more of the tarsal bones.**
- With a **nonunion** and inability to ambulate effectively and return to effective ambulation did not occur or is not expected to occur within 12 months of onset.

**Fracture of an upper extremity**
- With a **nonunion** of a fracture of the shaft of the humerus, radius, or ulna, under continuing surgical management, directed toward restoration of functional use of the extremity, and such function was not restored or expected to be restored within 12 months of onset

**Soft tissue injury** (e.g., burns)
- upper or lower extremity, trunk, or face and head, under continuing surgical management without restoration of major function or expected to be restored within 12 months

2.00  **Special Senses and Speech**

**Loss of Visual Acuity.** best correction is 20/200 or less.

**Contraction of the visual field**

**Loss of visual efficiency**

**Disturbance of labyrinthine vestibular function** (Including Ménière's disease), **labyrinthine (inner ear) vestibular system (balance)**
- characterized by a history of frequent attacks of balance disturbance, tinnitus, and progressive loss of hearing.
With both Disturbed function of vestibular labyrinth demonstrated by caloric or other vestibular
tests; and Hearing loss established by audiometry.
Loss of speech
Hearing loss treated and not treated with cochlear implantation
treated with cochlear implantation Consider under a disability for 1 year

3.00 Respiratory System
Chronic pulmonary insufficiency
A. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (emphysema- chronic bronchitis)
B. Chronic restrictive ventilatory disease (sarcoidosis)
C. Chronic impairment of gas exchange (hypoxia)/ Single breath DLCO or ABS values
Asthma Frequency of attacks.
Cystic fibrosis  PFS Values
Lung diseases Pneumoconiosis Bronchiectasis, Mycobacterial, mycotic, Cor pulmonale
(Pulmonary hypertension) Viagra (demonstrated by appropriate imaging techniques).
Sleep-related breathing disorders.)
Lung transplant. Consider under a disability for 12 months

4.00 Cardiovascular System
Chronic heart failure measures by a stress test or echo
Ischemic heart disease measures by a stress test or angiography
Recurrent arrhythmias Holter, episodes of cardiac syncope or near syncope
Symptomatic congenital heart disease (cyanotic or acy) measured by lab and arterial
Heart transplant. Consider under a disability for 1 year following surgery
Aneurysm of aorta or major branches, due to any cause (e.g., atherosclerosis
Chronic venous insufficiency of a lower extremity brawny edema/ ulceration
Peripheral arterial disease causing intermittent measured by Doppler /ABI/toe

5.00 Digestive System
Gastrointestinal hemorrhaging from any cause, requiring blood transfusion
Chronic liver disease Paracentesis endoscopy, x-ray, lab values W/esophageal hemorrhaging,
varices, or ascites
End stage liver disease w/lab
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) endoscopy, biopsy, imaging, or operative w/ lab values and
weight loss
Short bowel syndrome (SBS), due to surgical resection
Weight loss due to any digestive disorder BMI despite continuing treatment
Liver transplantation Consider under a disability for 1 year

6.00 Genitourinary Impairments
Impairment of renal function
Chronic hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis or Kidney transplantation.
Chronic abnormal lab values or Persistent anorexia
Nephrotic syndrome, with anasarca w/abnormal lab values

7.00 Hematological Disorders
Chronic anemia (hematocrit < 30 percent W/ one or more blood transfusions
Sickle cell disease or one of its variants. W/Pain crisis, hospitalization, anemia
Chronic thrombocytopenia w/reduced platelet counts w/spontaneous hemorrhage, req
transfusion or Intracranial bleeding
Hereditary telangiectasia (spider veins) w hemorrhage requiring
Coagulation defects (hemophilia) with spontaneous hemorrhage
Polycythemia vera (too many red blood cells) (with blood and spleen problems)
Myelofibrosis (myeloproliferative syndrome) (bone marrow disorder) W/Chronic anemia.
recurrent systemic bacterial infections, Intractable bone pain, osteosclerosis (>in bone density)
Chronic granulocytopenia Low blood count levels w/recurrent systemic bacterial infections
Aplastic anemias with bone marrow or stem cell transplantation

8.00 **Skin Disorders**
The kinds of impairments covered by these listings are: ichthyosis, bullous diseases, chronic infections of the skin or mucous membranes, dermatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, genetic photosensitivity disorders, and burns

9.00 **Endocrine Disorders (hormonal imbalance)**
We evaluate impairments that result from endocrine disorders under the listings for other body systems. For example:
1. **Pituitary gland** we evaluate the effects of recurrent dehydration Kidney
2. **Thyroid gland disorders** (sympathetic nervous system) and normal metabolism. cardiac dysfunction thyroid-related weight loss hypertensive cerebrovascular accidents (strokes) and cognitive limitations, mood disorders, and anxiety under 12.00.
3. **Parathyroid gland disorders** affect calcium levels in bone, blood, nerves, muscle, and other body tissues
4. **Adrenal gland disorders** affect bone calcium levels, blood pressure, metabolism, and mental status.
5. **Diabetes mellitus and other pancreatic gland disorders** Insulin is essential to the absorption of glucose from the bloodstream into body cells for conversion into cellular energy. The most common pancreatic gland disorder is **diabetes mellitus** (DM). Type 1 DM-(IDDM) type 2 DM (NIDDM Hyperglycemia. (i) **Diabetic ketoacidosis** (DKA), diabetic retinopathy, coronary artery disease and peripheral vascular disease, diabetic gastroparesis, diabetic nephropathy, poorly healing bacterial and fungal skin infections, diabetic peripheral and sensory neuropathies and cognitive impairments, depression, and anxiety
**Hypoglycemia low level of blood glucose.** can lead to complications, including seizures or loss of consciousness, altered mental status and cognitive deficits.

10.00 **Congenital Disorders that Affect Multiple Body Systems**
*Non-mosaic Down syndrome*, (chromosome 21 trisomy or chromosome 21 translocation)

11.00 **Neurological**
Epilepsy - convulsive epilepsy, (grand mal or psychomotor), - nonconvulsive epilepsy (petit mal, psychomotor, or focal
Central nervous system vascular accident (stroke) w/aphasia, involving two extremities
Benign brain tumors
Parkinsonian w/rigidity, bradykinesia, or tremor in two extremities,
Cerebral palsy w/IQ of 70 < or Abn behavior, communication or motor function
Spinal cord or nerve root lesions
Multiple sclerosis w/abn motor, Visual, mental & neurological function
**Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease)** Dx
**Anterior poliomyelitis (polio)** w/ difficulty with swallowing, speech, motor
**Myasthenia gravis** (neuromuscular disease) w/diff w speaking, swallowing, breathing, motor
Muscular dystrophy (muscle disease) w diff in motor function
Peripheral neuropathies w diff in motor function 11.15 [Reserved]
Subacute combined cord degeneration (pernicious anemia) w diff in motor function
Degenerative disease not listed elsewhere, such as Huntington's Chorea, Friedreich's ataxia, and spino-cerebellar degeneration. With:
Cerebral trauma
Syringomyelia (destroying the spinal cord)

12.00 **Mental Disorders**
**Organic mental disorders** dysfunction of the brain
**Schizophrenic, paranoid and other psychotic disorders**
**Affective disorders**: (disturbance of mood),
Intellectual disability: Valid IQ & functioning
Anxiety-related disorders
Somatoform disorders: Physical symptoms w/no demonstrable organic findings
Personality disorders: personality traits social or occupational disfunctioning
Substance addiction disorders severe behavioral or physical changes to the CNS

13.00 Malignant Neoplastic Diseases (Inoperable or unresectable/ Recurrent tumor/With distant metastases.
- Soft tissue tumors of the head and neck (except salivary glands/ thyroid gland)
  Inoperable, unresectable, or Persistent disease following initial multimodal antineoplastic therapy, recurrent disease following initial antineoplastic therapy, or metastases beyond the regional lymph nodes
  Soft tissue tumors of the head and neck not addressed
- Skin Sarcoma or carcinoma with metastases Melanoma, Recurrent .With metastases
  Soft tissue sarcoma w/regional or distant metastases Persistent or recurrent
- Lymphoma Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, w/qualifications
  Hodgkin’s > 12 months of completing initial antineoplastic therapy. w/bone marrow or stem cell transplantation.
- Leukemia (Acute leukemia and Chronic myelogenous leukemia, may be
  Multiple myeloma may be
- Nervous system. (brain and spinal cord) astrocytomas, glioblastoma multiforme, ependymoblastoma, diffuse intrinsic brain stem gliomas,
- Lungs non-small-cell carcinoma--inoperable, unresectable, recurrent, or metastatic disease to or beyond the hilar nodes. OR Small-cell (oat cell) carcinoma.
- Pleura or Mediastinum.
- Esophagus or stomach. Carcinoma or sarcoma
- Small intestine --carcinoma, sarcoma, or carcinoid.
- Large intestine Adenocarcinoma that is inoperable, unresectable, Squamous cell carcinoma
- Liver or Gallbladder-- tumors of the liver, gallbladder, or bile ducts.
- Pancreas. Carcinoma
- Kidneys, adrenal glands, or ureters- carcinoma.
- Urinary bladder -carcinoma.
- Cancers of the female and male genital tract -carcinoma or sarcoma.
- Malignant neoplastic diseases treated by bone marrow or stem cell transplantation

14.00 Immune System Disorders (Involvement of two or more organs/body systems)
- Systemic lupus erythematosus. (SLE)
- Systemic vasculitis.
- Systemic sclerosis (scleroderma) Finger contractures
- Polymyositis and dermatomyositis.
- Immune deficiency disorders, excluding HIV infection.
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.
- Inflammatory arthritis Persistent inflammation or persistent deformity of major peripheral weight-bearing joints resulting in the inability to ambulate
- Sjögren’s syndrome
## CAL Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acute Leukemia</td>
<td>Bilateral Retinoblastoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrenal Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable, unresectable or recurrent</td>
<td>Bladder Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable or unresectable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma</td>
<td>Breast Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable or unresectable</td>
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<td>Adult Onset Huntington Disease</td>
<td>Canavan Disease (CD)</td>
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<td>Aicardi-Goutieres Syndrome</td>
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<td>Alexander Disease (ALX) - Neonatal and Infantile</td>
<td>Caudal Regression Syndrome - Types III and IV</td>
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<td>Allan-Herndon-Dudley Syndrome</td>
<td>Cerebro Oculo Facio Skeletal (COFS) Syndrome</td>
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<td>Alobar Holoprosencephaly</td>
<td>Cerebrotendinous Xanthomatosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpers Disease</td>
<td>Child Neuroblastoma - with distant metastases or recurrent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha Mannosidosis - Type II and III</td>
<td>Child Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma - recurrent</td>
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<td>Alstrom Syndrome</td>
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<td>Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma</td>
<td>Chondrosarcoma - with multimodal therapy</td>
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<td>Amegakaryocytic Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) - Blast Phase</td>
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<td>Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)</td>
<td>Congenital Lymphedema</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anaplastic Adrenal Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable, unresectable or recurrent</td>
<td>Cornelia de Lange Syndrome</td>
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<td>Angelman Syndrome</td>
<td>Corticobasal Degeneration</td>
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<td>Aortic Atresia</td>
<td>Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) – Adult</td>
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<td>Aplastic Anemia</td>
<td>Cri du Chat Syndrome</td>
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<td>Astrocytoma - Grade III and IV</td>
<td>Degos Disease - Systemic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ataxia Telangiectasia</td>
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<td>Batten Disease</td>
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<td>Beta Thalassemia Major</td>
<td>Early-Onset Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bilateral Optic Atrophy- Infantile</td>
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Edwards Syndrome (Trisomy 18)  Head and Neck Cancers - with distant metastasis or inoperable or unresectable
Eisenmenger Syndrome  Heart Transplant Graft Failure
Endometrial Stromal Sarcoma  Heart Transplant Wait List - 1A/1B
Endomyocardial Fibrosis  Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) - Familial Type
Ependymoblastoma (Child Brain Tumor)  Hepatoblastoma
Erdheim Chester Disease  Hepatopulmonary Syndrome
Esophageal Cancer  Hepatorenal Syndrome
Ewing Sarcoma  Histiocytosis Syndromes
Farber’s Disease (FD) – Infantile  Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome
Fatal Familial Insomnia  Hydranencephaly
Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva  Hypocomplementemic Urticarial Vasculitis Syndrome
Follicular Dendritic Cell Sarcoma - metastatic or recurrent  Hypophosphatasia Perinatal (Lethal) and Infantile Onset Types
Friedreich’s Ataxia (FRDA)  Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD), Pick’s Disease - Type A – Adult  I Cell Disease
Fryns Syndrome  Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
Fucosidosis - Type 1  Infantile Free Sialic Acid Storage Disease
Fukuyama Congenital Muscular Dystrophy  Infantile Neuroaxonal Dystrophy (INAD)
Fulminant Giant Cell Myocarditis  Infantile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses
Galactosialidosis - Early and Late Infantile Types  Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC)
Gallbladder Cancer  Jervell and Lange-Nielsen Syndrome
Gaucher Disease (GD) - Type 2  Junctional Epidermolysis Bullosa - Lethal Type
Glioblastoma Multiforme (Adult Brain Tumor)  Juvenile Onset Huntington Disease
Glioma Grade III and IV  Kidney Cancer - inoperable or unresectable
Glutaric Acidemia - Type II
Krabbe Disease (KD) – Infantile
Kufs Disease - Type A and B
Large Intestine Cancer - with distant metastasis or inoperable, unresectable or recurrent
Late Infantile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses
Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) Recipient
Leigh’s Disease
Leiomyosarcoma
Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome (LNS)
Lewy Body Dementia
Lissencephaly
Liver Cancer
Lowe Syndrome
Lymphomatoid Granulomatosis - Grade III
Malignant Brain Stem Gliomas – Childhood
Malignant Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor
Malignant Germ Cell Tumor
Malignant Melanoma - with metastases
Malignant Multiple Sclerosis
Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL)
Maple Syrup Urine Disease
Mastocytosis - Type IV
MECP2 Duplication Syndrome
Medulloblastoma - with metastases
Menkes Disease - Classic or Infantile Onset Form
Merkel Cell Carcinoma - with metastases
Merosin Deficient Congenital Muscular Dystrophy
Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) - Late Infantile
Mitral Valve Atresia
Mixed Dementias
MPS I, formerly known as Hurler Syndrome
MPS II, formerly known as Hunter Syndrome
MPS III, formerly known as Sanfilippo Syndrome
Mucosal Malignant Melanoma
Multicentric Castleman Disease
Multiple System Atrophy
Myoclonic Epilepsy with Ragged Red Fibers Syndrome
Neonatal Adrenoleukodystrophy
Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis
Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation - Types 1 and 2
NFU-1 Mitochondrial Disease
Niemann-Pick Disease (NPD) - Type A
Niemann-Pick Disease-Type C
Nonketotic Hyperglycinemia
Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer - with metastases to or beyond the hilar nodes or inoperable, unresectable or recurrent
Obliterative Bronchiolitis
Ohtahara Syndrome
Ornithine Transcarbamylase (OTC) Deficiency
Orthochromatic Leukodystrophy with Pigmented Glia

Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) - Type II

Osteosarcoma, formerly known as Bone Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable or unresectable

Ovarian Cancer – with distant metastases or inoperable or unresectable

Pancreatic Cancer

Paraneoplastic Pemphigus

Patau Syndrome (Trisomy 13)

Pearson Syndrome

Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease - Classic Form

Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease - Connatal Form

Peripheral Nerve Cancer - metastatic or recurrent

Peritoneal Mesothelioma

Peritoneal Mucinous Carcinomatosis

Perry Syndrome

Phelan-McDermid Syndrome

Pleural Mesothelioma

Pompe Disease – Infantile

Primary Cardiac Amyloidosis

Primary Central Nervous System Lymphoma

Primary Effusion Lymphoma

Primary Progressive Aphasia

Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

Pulmonary Atresia

Pulmonary Kaposi Sarcoma

Retinopathy of Prematurity - Stage V

Rett (RTT) Syndrome

Rhabdomyosarcoma

Rhizomelic Chondrodysplasia Punctata

Roberts Syndrome

Salivary Tumors

Schindler Disease - Type 1

Severe Combined Immunodeficiency - Childhood

Single Ventricle

Sinonasal Cancer

Small Cell Cancer (of the Large Intestine, Ovary, Prostate, or Uterus)

Small Cell Lung Cancer

Small Intestine Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable, unresectable or recurrent

Smith Lemli Opitz Syndrome

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) - Types 0 and 1

Spinal Nerve Root Cancer-metastatic or recurrent

Spinocerebellar Ataxia

Stiff Person Syndrome

Stomach Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable, unresectable or recurrent

Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis
Tabes Dorsalis

Tay Sachs Disease - Infantile Type

Thanatophoric Dysplasia - Type 1

The ALS/Parkinsonism Dementia Complex

Thyroid Cancer

Transplant Coronary Artery Vasculopathy

Tricuspid Atresia

Ullrich Congenital Muscular Dystrophy

Ureter Cancer - with distant metastases or inoperable, unresectable or recurrent

Usher Syndrome - Type I

Walker Warburg Syndrome

Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome

Wolman Disease

Xeroderma Pigmentosum