

CONDITION	IMPORTANT FACTS	NEED TO OBTAIN
Amputation	Due to any cause involving both hands or one or both legs at or above the ankle region; or one hand and one leg with stump complications causing inability to effectively ambulate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of fact • Inability to ambulate effectively
Anemia	Severely low blood count; can cause dizziness, fainting, fatigue, lack of energy and shortness of breath; Typically related to variety of disease- kidney disease, cancer, liver disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab studies- extent of anemia as in chronic & Blood transfusions- documentation of these • Documentation of primary disease causing anemia; see those as in kidney and liver disease
Alzheimer's	Early-onset disease (prior to age 65) – qualifies for Compassionate Allowances Initiative (fast-track for SSDI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurology exam • Documentation of dementia by standardized testing
Asthma	Restrictive airways disease; AND exacerbations requiring 3 hospitalizations within a 12-month period, each admission lasting at least 48 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulmonary function test • Hospital records
Arthritis	Pain and swelling of joints; joint movement must be limited or painful; lasting at a minimum of 12 months; osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis (auto-immune disorder)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood work for inflammatory markers & Imaging to show joint damage • Physical exam by provider documenting diagnosis and limitation of joint mobility
Autism/ Asperger's	Neurodevelopmental disorder; affects ability to communicate and social interaction skills; may be unable to live independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis by neuropsychological testing & Cognitive testing results • Family's financial situation may need to be assessed
Bipolar	Psychiatric disability that prevents a person from being able to work or function in society; must have a hx of consistent symptomatic manic episodes, depressive syndromes, or a combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of diagnosis by psychiatrist • Treatment records over a period of time, including medication history; Work history & records
Blood clots (deep vein thrombosis)	Formation of blood clots in heart- heart disease and rhythm changes Blood clots in lung- lung disease and pulmonary insufficiency Blood clots in brain- stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic tests for cause and resultant damage & Treatments and medications related to clotting issues; Cardiac disease- imaging studies, labs, EKG and ejection fracture • Lung disease- pulmonary function tests (PFT), imaging studies, oxygen usage • Stroke- imaging studies, reports from MD, PT, OT and ST
Cancer	Variety of cancer types, especially invasive and aggressive Treated with chemotherapy, radiation or biological treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of cancer and treatment; side effects of treatment as in weight loss, brain fog and fatigue • Overall effect on ability to manage activities of daily living
Carpal Tunnel	Numbness and pain in one or both hands to the point a person cannot perform daily tasks or renders them unable to perform any form of work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurology evaluation & EMG/NCV testing • Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) assessment & Work history, work records
Cellulitis	Skin condition that results from bacterial infections; must last 12 months or more; symptoms of impairment render the person unable to perform any job; may qualify under a different diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records from treating providers • Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) assessment
Cerebral Palsy	Condition present from birth or shortly thereafter caused by damage to the brain; may result in severe difficulty walking, speaking or difficulty using hands or arms; may qualify for presumptive disability benefits – which are advanced payments of SSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam by Pediatric Neurologist for initial diagnosis • Records from specialty providers; Orthopedics, PT, OT, ST, Rehab, GI, Nutrition, etc.
Chronic Fatigue	Severe and ongoing tiredness not resulting from another underlying disease; symptoms prevent a person from working; diagnosis requires at 4 of the following symptoms for at least 6 months: memory or concentration problems, frequent sore throats, tender lymph nodes, muscle pain, joint pain, headaches, non-refreshing sleep, general feeling of being unwell lasting at least 24 hours following exertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labs including inflammatory markers, Epstein-Barr virus • Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) assessment • Records from providers • Work history, work records
Chronic Pain	Ongoing or recurrent pain that continues longer than the usual course of acute illness or injury, or more than 3-6 months; includes chronic regional pain syndrome, somatoform pain disorder, reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), peripheral neuropathy, carpal tunnel syndrome, fibromyalgia, arthritis, or ilioinguinal neuralgia; pain interferes with the ability to perform any type of reasonable full-time work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have medical diagnosis for disabling condition; impairment has lasted or can be expected no less than 12 months • Labs, imaging to support diagnosis • Treatment records from providers & Records from psychiatric providers, if applicable • Residual Functional Capacity assessment
COPD	Chronic bronchitis, emphysema; obstructed airflow through the airways in and out of the lungs; progressive and worsens over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical diagnosis of COPD by provider & Pulmonary function test • Evidence of co-morbidities
Crohn's disease	A form of inflammatory bowel disorder (IBD) Symptoms as in pain, inflammation, fatigue, diarrhea, bowel obstructions and weight loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imaging and lab studies; Weight loss and inability to gain weight & Medications • Potential complications- liver and kidney disease with documentation- imaging and lab studies
Degenerative Disc Disease	Vertebral discs between vertebrae in spine shrink over time causing pressure on nerves exiting spine; pain and numbness can result; evidence of decreased range of motion and difficulty walking are significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical records documenting treatment for back pain • Imaging of spine; CT, MRI • Independent medical examination
Diabetes	Inability to control body's glucose; can cause tingling or numbness in hands and feet, frequent infections, poor healing of wounds, eye and vision problems, kidney damage, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, GI problems, reduced blood flow to limbs, and depression; diabetes is no longer included as a separate disability listing, but complications arising from diabetes are often included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical records documenting compliance with treatment; noncompliance can cause denial of SSI benefits • Provider documentation of co-morbidities related to complications of diabetes • Residual Functional Capacity assessment • Work history, work records

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Dialysis	(See kidney disease)	
Ehlers-Danlos	Rare genetic condition that limits collagen production in body; affects joints, skin, and other connective tissues; can lead to heart disease and other cardiovascular problems; no particular disability listing for Ehlers-Danlos, but may qualify under spine or joint dysfunction listings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis from genetic testing • Records from treating providers
Epilepsy	Seizure disorder; often unable to work due to neurological deficits, frequent seizures, or inability to drive; medications to treat may cause “fogginess”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis from Neurologist; EEG & Treatment records from providers • Residual Functional Capacity assessment
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Caused by mother’s ingestion of alcohol during pregnancy; can cause stunted weight and growth, impaired brain functioning/ mental deficits, deformities of head and face, behavioral problems, ADD, learning disabilities, poor memory, heart abnormalities, poor muscle tone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis by primary care provider • Cognitive evaluation & Neuropsychological assessment • Records from specialty treating providers, PT, OT, ST, etc.
Fibromyalgia	(See chronic pain)	
Fracture of the femur, tibia, pelvis or 1 or more of the foot bones	Must have evidence of medical non-union by radiology imaging, and return to effective ambulation did not occur or is not expected to occur within 12 months of onset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imaging • Rehab consult
Hearing Loss	Treated with a cochlear implant: Consider under a disability for 1 year after initial implantation; word recognition score of 60% or less determined using the HINT Not treated with cochlear implant: Average air conduction hearing threshold of 90 decibels or greater in the better ear and an average bone conduction hearing threshold of 60 decibels or greater in the better ear; or a word recognition score of 40% or less in the better ear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiology evaluation • Hearing exam
Heart Failure	Congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, arrhythmias and possible transplant Inability to accommodate any exercise and likely decreased life expectancy Inability to manage activities of daily living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood work- documenting effects on different body systems (renal or kidney) • Medical imaging- cardiac ECHO or MRI; EKG/ ECG reports & Cardiac ejection fraction- % of disease to heart • Use of oxygen; Exercise stress test & MD chart notes, variety of specialist and ER visits
Hepatitis	Hepatitis C- from blood contact & Hepatitis B- caused by virus Can cause liver damage- cirrhosis as well as liver cancer and liver failure Possible liver transplant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis C treated with variety of antiviral medications- difficult on body- fatigue, nausea and vomiting, depression and brain fog • Extent of liver disease- imaging and lab studies; Chronic liver disease
Herniated Disc (herniated nucleus pulposus)	Resulting in compromise of a nerve root or the spinal cord with evidence of nerve root compression; lumbar spinal stenosis is included if it causes chronic nonradicular pain and weakness and results in inability to ambulate effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRI scan of spine & Exam by Neurologist or Neurosurgeon • Evidence of nerve loss, pain • Positive straight leg raise
HIV/ AIDS	Treatment can cause significant symptoms- nausea, fatigue, anemia, nerve issues and insomnia Problems with immunocompromised- vulnerable to infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of disease and prognosis • Potential of infections- as in bacterial, fungal, viral and parasitic- lab studies • Potential for cancer- documentation & Infections- labs studies and hospital chart notes • Symptoms as in diarrhea and weight loss- potential treatment related as in tube feeding
Hypertension	Elevated blood pressure The increased pressure can cause damage to variety of organs and body systems over time – heart, eyes, brain and kidney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart disease related to HTN- as in cardiac studies, ejection fraction and % of damage • Eyes- documentation of vision loss & Brain- imaging studies and neuropsychiatry examinations • Kidney- lab studies, imaging studies, likely dialysis reports
Kidney Disease	Kidney damage and resultant lack of filtration by kidneys Need for dialysis- hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis Kidney transplantation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imaging and lab studies- both for kidney disease and possible cardiac disease • Extent of kidney function – as in % and documented with lab studies (glomerular filtration) • Dialysis schedule and potential problems from dialysis • Complications from kidney disease- heart failure, stroke, HTN and kidney failure • Edema or swelling of body- as in liver, cardiac and lung and lab values- albumin and protein
Liver disease	Can be related to hepatitis, cancer, alcohol and poor health See hepatitis above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imaging and lab studies- extent of liver disease & Documentation of symptoms related to disease • Chronic liver disease- end stage liver disease- documentation of this as in imaging and lab studies

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Loss of function	May be due to bone or joint deformity or destruction from any cause; spinal disorders, amputation, fractures, soft tissue injuries, burns requiring prolonged convalescence; <u>loss of inability to functionally ambulate independently for at least 12 months</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis and evaluation of musculoskeletal impairments should be supported by exam findings • Imaging studies, EMG helpful • Documentation of medically prescribed treatment
Loss of speech	Due to any cause, with inability to produce by any means speech that can be heard, understood, or sustained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech therapy consult • Hearing exam
Lung Infection	Mycobacterial (bacterial infection), mycotic (fungal infection), chronic, persistent lung infections; limit the amount of oxygen received, causing shortness of breath, fatigue, and low oxygen in the blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulmonary function testing • Treatment records with providers to show pattern of consistency with treatment • Residual Functional Capacity evaluation
Lupus	Autoimmune disease, causes body's immune system to attack itself Can affect joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart and lungs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidney disease- imaging and lab studies and extent of kidney disease • Brain- headaches, dizziness, behavior changes, brain fog stroke and seizures; documentation of changes and symptoms, neuropsychiatry examination and therapies • Blood and blood vessels- anemia, bleeding and clotting. Need imaging and lab studies • Lungs- inflammation and pneumonia. Need imaging and lab studies and pulmonary function tests • Heart- inflammation of heart and heart membrane. Need imaging and lab studies, possible EKG and other cardiac testing results
Lyme Disease	Bacterial infection caused by the bite of a tick; symptoms take days, to weeks, to years to develop and can vary significantly; can cause muscle, joint, and tendon pain, loss of muscle control in the face, dizziness, meningitis, altered mental status, shooting pain that interferes with sleep, heart problems, and encephalitis; chronic encephalomyelitis can cause progressive cognitive problems, weakness in the legs, difficulty walking, weakness in facial muscles, bladder problems, vertigo, and back pain; there is no specific disability listing for Lyme Disease, but many of the associated symptoms could qualify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual Functional Capacity assessment • Labs including inflammatory markers • Provider records of treatment • Provider records of psychiatric treatment
Meniere's disease (vertigo)	Disturbance of labyrinthine-vestibular function; frequent attacks of balance disturbance, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), and progressive loss of hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caloric or other vestibular tests • Hearing loss established by audiometry
Mesothelioma	Rare cancer in the lining of the lungs caused by exposure to asbestos; latency period of 20-50 years; symptoms of abdominal pain, swelling, weight loss, cachexia, fever, blood clotting problems, bowel obstruction, or anemia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis of mesothelioma by provider including any pathology or lab reports to support diagnosis • Treatment records including chemotherapy & Residual Functional Capacity assessment
Multiple Sclerosis	Chronic autoimmune disease that affects central nervous system including brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves; progressive disease with periods of no symptoms; disability has to have lasted at least 12 months to qualify for SSI – this can be an issue since most symptoms are episodic;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider diagnosis of MS, supported by MRI study, or spinal tap • Eye exam • Residual Functional Capacity assessment
Obesity	Excess weight- as in Body Mass Index Metabolic syndrome –insulin resistance, HTN, cardiac disease; Sleep apnea, Arthritis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body mass index- weight chart • Imaging and lab studies- as in heart and kidney disease & Cardiac exercise stress test
Pain	Must contribute to functional loss (see loss of function and chronic pain above)	
PTSD	War survivors as well as survivors of abuse, rape, violence, neglect or catastrophe Potential for depression, drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders and suicide Problems as in chronic pain, heart disease and arthritis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of PTSD- psychologist and medical doctor • Documentation of obsessions or compulsions, irrational fear, panic attacks, anxiety and or depression • Documentation of problems, pain medication usage, heart imaging and lab studies • Arthritic changes- imaging and lab studies and effect on life
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy	Chronic pain and muscle damage in an arm or leg; cause is unknown, but believed it is triggered when there is an injury that damages the nerves; the damaged nerves are unable to regulate blood flow properly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider documentation to support physical findings of subjective complaints • Residual Functional Capacity assessment
Ruptured Disc	Causes pressure upon an intervertebral disc and the nerves exiting from that spinal level; can cause pain, muscle weakness, loss of reflexes, and numbness/tingling; disability must have lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRI scan of spine & Exam by Neurologist or Neurosurgeon • Evidence of nerve loss, pain • Positive straight leg raises
Schizophrenia	Types include: Paranoid- anger, argumentative and anxiety Catatonic- negative emotions, rigid muscles, agitation and inability to feel pain Disorganized- childlike and repetitive behaviors, inappropriate laugh and incoherent speech Undifferentiated- combination of above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis from psych testing, no imaging or lab studies • Documentation of delusion or hallucinations, disorganized or catatonic, incoherent or illogical and or emotional isolation or withdrawal • Inability to function in the world independently

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Scoliosis	Abnormal curvature of the spine; is not a separate disability listing; may qualify under other co-morbidity such as disorders of the spine, respiratory disorders, or pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imaging such as x-rays, MRI, CT scans • Provider records documenting physical limitations & Records of ongoing treatment and therapy • Residual Functional Capacity assessment
Seizure Disorder	(See epilepsy above)	
Sickle Cell Anemia	Abnormally shaped red blood cells- crescent shape and inability to flow causing blocked blood flow Symptoms include pain (abdominal, bone and chest), shortness of breath, fatigue, increased thirst and urination and poor eye sight Complications can include stroke, gallstones, splenic problems, bone infections, blindness, skin ulcers, HTN and kidney disease Crisis types include: *Vaso-occlusive- thrombotic, can cause organ damage; *Splenic sequestration- enlargement of spleen; *Aplastic crisis- fatigue & *Hemolytic crisis- kidney damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of painful clotting issues in the recent past (hospital chart notes) • Hospital care- from complications (hospital chart notes) • Lab studies- level of anemia • Documentation of complications- imaging and lab studies, % or level of disease
Sleep Apnea	Periods in which a sleeping person stops breathing for up to 10-30 seconds at a time; obesity increases this risk as it compresses the neck and blocks the airway; can cause daytime sleepiness, intellectual ability, memory, mood disorders, heart attack, high blood pressure, stroke, and heart disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual Functional Capacity assessment • Documentation by provider of complications associated with sleep apnea
Stroke	Can be caused by a brain hemorrhage (hemorrhagic stroke) or a blocked blood vessel (ischemic stroke) causing a lack of blood flow to the brain resulting in injury; damage usually affects one side of the body and can vary greatly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation by provider of deficits/limitations as a result of stroke • Vision exam & Residual Functional Capacity assessment • Specialty provider follow up treatment records
Substance Abuse	Disability will not be awarded just for substance abuse; however, a history of or current substance abuse would not prevent someone from being awarded SSI based on another diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of drug or alcohol treatment • Drug screens that prove the client was “clean” and sober
Thyroid disease	Hypothyroid- under active thyroid; fatigue, depression, brain fog, pain, weight gain. Treated with thyroid supplements Hyperthyroid- nervousness, muscular weakness, racing heart, tremors, insomnia. Treated with medications, radioactive iodine and or surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential symptoms of thyroid disease • Imaging and lab studies • Cardiac disease – imaging and lab studies and EKG • Neuropsychiatry exam for brain fog
Traumatic Brain Injury	Acute injury to the brain caused by falls, car accidents, firearms, and bombs in battle; injuries vary from a concussion with mild temporary amnesia to permanent coma or death; may have physical difficulties as well as change in cognitive abilities, ability to concentrate, personality, mood changes, or social functioning; may have trouble with language, ineffective speech or communication; symptoms may improve or worsen over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider documentation of limitations following head trauma • Neuropsychological testing, cognitive testing • Residual Functional Capacity assessment
Ulcerative Colitis	Inflammatory bowel disease of the large intestine; potentially life-threatening complications such as colon rupture, colon cancer, fistulas, and formation of abscesses around the anus; characterized by bloody diarrhea, weight loss, fatigue, loss of appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider documentation of biopsy-proven disease • Labs to show additional complications such as anemia, infection • Residual Functional Capacity assessment
Vision Loss	Remaining vision in the better eye after correction is 20/200 or less; contraction of the visual field in the better eye; a visual efficiency percentage of 20 or less after best correction or visual impairment value of 1.00 or greater after best correction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision exam • Residual Functional Capacity assessment