

How to Qualify for Social Security Disability Benefits with Breast Cancer

If you have been diagnosed with breast cancer, it can be a devastating diagnosis. Even if it is caught in its earliest stages while it is very treatable, you might not be able to work and earning a living. There are two disability programs that the [SSA](#) offers, Supplemental Security Income ([SSI](#)) and Social Security Disability Insurance ([SSDI](#)). If you meet medical criteria and the other requirements, you might be able to qualify for monthly disability benefits with breast cancer.

The Medical Criteria for Disability Benefits

For an approval for Social Security Disability benefits, you will need to meet the criteria that are specified for the Blue Book's breast cancer listing. The [Blue Book](#) is the SSA's medical guide. Breast cancer is found in Section 13.00, which emphasizes cancers, and breast cancer is specifically mentioned in Section [13.10](#). To meet the medical criteria to qualify for Social Security Disability because of breast cancer, you must provide detailed medical records that indicate the following apply:

You have a carcinoma that started in the tissue that lines the organs or the skin cells and it has either spread above or below the collar bone, spread over into at least 10 lymph nodes, or spread into distant chest regions.

- It is oat cell or small-cell carcinoma.
- After anti-cancer therapy, your cancer has returned.
- You have an advanced form of breast cancer that extended into the internal mammary nodes, chest, or skin.

There are some forms of cancer that qualify for the SSA's Compassionate Allowance Program (CAP), which usually results in a much faster benefits approval. To qualify for CAP, your breast cancer must meet at least one of these criteria:

- It is inoperable.
- Your cancer has metastasized – having reached distant organs.
- After cancer treatments, such as chemotherapy or radiation, your cancer returned.

Get Disability Approval for Breast Cancer In Its Early Stages

If you have been diagnosed with breast cancer in its early stages, when it is treatable, you might still be approved for disability benefits from the SSA. You must provide hard evidence to show that your condition will keep you from working for a minimum of 12 months. A [written statement](#) from your physician that indicates such will suffice. Your inability work could be caused by side effects from your cancer treatments, because radiation and chemotherapy can have negative side effects, such as fatigue, nausea, aches, pains, and other symptoms. Many patients get disability benefits while undergoing treatments, but they go back to work after they recover.

Applying for Social Security Disability with Breast Cancer

If you are unable to work because of breast cancer, you can apply for Social Security Disability benefits. The key to a successful claim will be providing hard medical evidence that confirms your diagnosis, your symptoms and your side effects. You can start the [application process online](#) or by calling 1-800-772-1213 and by talking to a representative or scheduling an appointment at your [local SSA office](#).

Resources

- <https://www.ssa.gov/>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/>
- <https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/glossary/blue-book>
- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/13.00-NeoplasticDiseases-Malignant-Adult.htm#13_10
- <https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/how-to/get-physician-help-disability-claim>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/>
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>