

Social Security Disability Benefits for Epilepsy

If you have [epilepsy](#) and are unable to work because of your seizures, you may be eligible to receive disability benefits through the Social Security Administration (SSA). The SSA offers monthly benefits to provide financial assistance to adults and children who are unable to work because of medical problems.

Children and adults both can qualify if their epilepsy is severe. This means that even with prescription medication, you suffer from seizures that are severe in nature and your seizures continue to occur regularly and frequently. Documentation is the key to getting a claim approved. You need to provide detailed medical records, including notes about your treatment and how it did or did not help you, as well as how your condition impacts your daily life and your ability to perform regular tasks.

Blue Book Criteria

There are specific [criteria](#) that must be met in order to be approved for disability benefits. Whenever anyone applies for Social Security benefits, the SSA will evaluate your epilepsy to its medical guide known as the Blue Book. The Blue Book will list exactly how severe your epilepsy needs to be to qualify. Blue Book Section 11.00 focuses on neurological impairments, which includes epilepsy. You must include a description of a typical seizure meeting one of the reequipments listed in [Section 11.02](#).

For a child to qualify, you must include a detailed description of a typical seizure that is either a general tonic-clonic seizure occurring at least once every three months regardless of medication or dyscognitive seizures or absence seizures occurring at least once a week for three consecutive months despite medication. Children's parents will also need to provide evidence that their household income is below a specific threshold.

The Application Process

While some claims are approved quickly because adequate documentation is provided and your condition and its severity is made clear, other claims may take longer to be approved for monthly benefits. On average, it takes an individual five months from the initial application to be granted approval. Of course, some cases take longer. By providing as much documentation and as many records as possible early on, you can effectively [speed up the approval process](#).

The first six months you are disabled are considered a waiting period and benefits are not payable during that time, but you can go ahead and start the process during that time. After you have been receiving Social Security disability benefits for two years, you are eligible for the government health program known as Medicare. You may also be eligible for Medicaid, if you meet the income requirements for that program in your state.

To apply for disability, you can [visit the SSA's website](#) or call 1-800-772-1213. You can schedule an appointment to go to your [local SSA office](#) if you need help with the application process. The forms must be completed in detail to accurately describe your disability.

Sources Found Above:

<https://epilepsynewengland.org/knowledge-center/the-basics>

<https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/11.00-Neurological-Adult.htm>

<http://www.disability-benefits-help.org/disability-tips/patience-during-ssd-application>

<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/>

<http://www.disability-benefits-help.org/social-security-disability-locations>