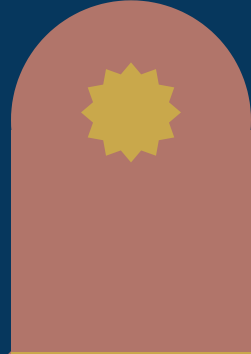
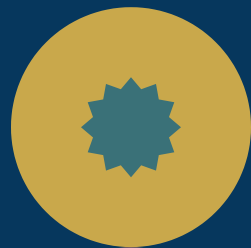




Ask an Attorney

July 2024



Understanding the Listings





Part of SSA's analysis is looking at very specific medical criteria in "the listings"

The listings describe specific medical conditions that SSA finds severe enough to be disabling

If an individual has one of these conditions and the specific medical findings or symptoms described in the listing, they will be found disabled



The listings cover all of the body systems

Listing of Impairments - Adult Listings (Part A)

The following sections contain medical criteria that apply to the evaluation of impairments in adults age 18 and over and that may apply to the evaluation of impairments in children under age 18 if the disease processes have a similar effect on adults and younger children.

1.00 Musculoskeletal Disorders	2.00 Special Senses and Speech	3.00 Respiratory Disorders
4.00 Cardiovascular System	5.00 Digestive System	6.00 Genitourinary Disorders
7.00 Hematological Disorders	8.00 Skin Disorders	9.00 Endocrine Disorders
10.00 Congenital Disorders that Affect Multiple Body Systems	11.00 Neurological Disorders	12.00 Mental Disorders
13.00 Cancer (Malignant)	14.00 Immune System	

Click here to view all the listings on the SSA website



Let's look at one listing so you see how it works. Listing 11.04 is for vascular insult to the brain, also known as a stroke.

11.04 Vascular insult to the brain, characterized by A, B, or C:

A. Sensory or motor aphasia resulting in ineffective speech or communication (see 11.00E1) persisting for at least 3 consecutive months after the insult.

OR

B. Disorganization of motor function in two extremities (see 11.00D1), resulting in an extreme limitation (see 11.00D2) in the ability to stand up from a seated position, balance while standing or walking, or use the upper extremities, persisting for at least 3 consecutive months after the insult.

OR

C. Marked limitation (see 11.00G2) in physical functioning (see 11.00G3a) and in one of the following areas of mental functioning, both persisting for at least 3 consecutive months after the insult:

1. Understanding, remembering, or applying information (see 11.00G3b(i));
or
2. Interacting with others (see 11.00G3b(ii)); or
3. Concentrating, persisting, or maintaining pace (see 11.00G3b(iii)); or
4. Adapting or managing oneself (see 11.00G3b(iv)).

The participant, Jessica, had a stroke over a year ago. In order for her to meet a listing, her medical records would have to show that she either has:

- Had ineffective speech or communication for at least three consecutive months after her stroke *OR*
- Had an inability to stand up from a seated position, balance while standing or walking, or using her arms for at least three consecutive months after her stroke *OR*
- Marked limitation in understanding, remembering, or applying information; interacting with others; concentrating, persisting or maintaining pace; or adapting or managing herself

In other words, she has to have the specific ongoing symptoms caused by the stroke that are described in the listing; having had a stroke alone isn't enough.

A. Medical documentation of one or more of the following:

1. Delusions or hallucinations;
2. Disorganized thinking (speech); or
3. Grossly disorganized behavior or catatonia.

AND

B. Extreme limitation of one, or marked limitation of two, of the following areas of mental functioning (see [12.00E](#)):

1. Understand, remember, or apply information (see [12.00E1](#)).
2. Interact with others (see [12.00E2](#)).
3. Concentrate, persist, or maintain pace (see [12.00E3](#)).
4. Adapt or manage oneself (see [12.00E4](#)).

OR

C. Your mental disorder in this listing category is "serious and persistent;" that is, you have a medically documented history of the existence of the disorder over a period of at least 2 years, and there is evidence of both:

1. Medical treatment, mental health therapy, psychosocial support(s), or a highly structured setting(s) that is ongoing and that diminishes the symptoms and signs of your mental disorder (see [12.00G2b](#)); **and**
2. Marginal adjustment, that is, you have minimal capacity to adapt to changes in your environment or to demands that are not already part of your daily life (see [12.00G2c](#)).

12.04 Depressive, bipolar and related disorders (see 12.00B3), satisfied by A and B, or A and C:

A. Medical documentation of the requirements of paragraph 1 or 2:

1. Depressive disorder, characterized by five or more of the following:
 - a. Depressed mood;
 - b. Diminished interest in almost all activities;



Here's another example using Listing 12.04

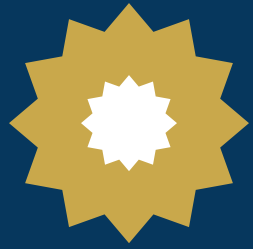
The participant, Samuel, has depression. In order for him to meet a listing, his medical records would have to show that he was diagnosed with a depressive disorder AND five or more of the following:

- Depressed mood;
- Diminished interest in almost all activities;
- Appetite disturbance with change in weight;
- Sleep disturbance;
- Observable psychomotor agitation or retardation;
- Decreased energy;
- Feelings of guilt or worthlessness;
- Difficulty concentrating or thinking; or
- Thoughts of death or suicide

In addition, Samuel would also have to show an extreme limitation in one of the following areas or marked limitation in two areas: understand, remember, or carry out information; interact with others; concentrate, persist, or maintain pace; adapt or manage oneself.

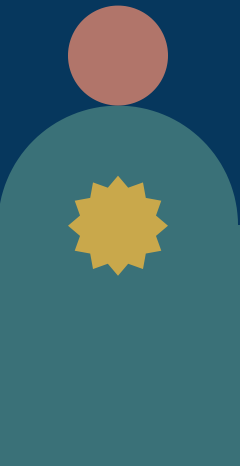
Having depression alone wouldn't meet the listing; Samuel's records would have to establish the rest of this too.





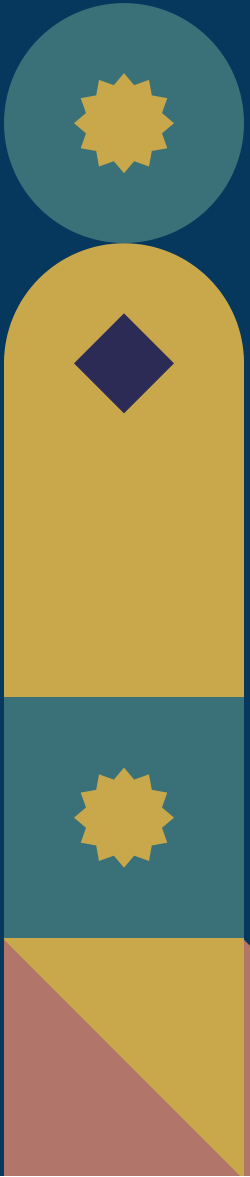
Not Meeting a Listing Does Not Necessarily Mean a Denial

Remember that SSA's analysis of whether someone is disabled is a multi-part, sequential evaluation. Whether someone meets or equals a listing is only part of that evaluation. **Most people who are found disabled do not meet or equal a listing;** SSA finds that they are unable to work because of the limitations their medical conditions cause.



Don't Get to Caught Up in the Listings

Benefits advocates don't have to know for sure whether a participant will meet or equal a listing. In fact, they can't know that because DDS will make that decision. We just want you to generally be aware that the listings exist and to look to see if the evidence in your cases might support finding that someone meets a listing.





Thank you!
See you next month!

