

How to Qualify For Social Security Disability With Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease has become more common in recent years. The [reported cases](#) in the U.S. has doubled since 1991, with the increase jumping from 3.74 reported cases per 100,000 people to 7.95 cases per 100,000 people as of 2014, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The disease is spread through the bites of deer ticks, which are infected with the disease. And, not everyone who is bitten by an infected tick gets the disease.

While some people with Lyme Disease have no symptoms or very minor symptoms, others may have severe side effects and some people become disabled. If you have become unable to work because of the severity of the symptoms that you have suffered because of Lyme Disease, you may qualify for [Social Security Disability benefits](#). To be approved for disability benefits administered by the [Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#), you must show that your condition is severe enough to keep you working for at least a year, or that you have a condition that will result in your death. You must be fully disabled because partial disability benefits aren't offered.

Meeting The Blue Book Criteria For Disability Benefits With Lyme Disease

The SSA uses a medical guide, which is called the [Blue Book](#), to determine if an individual meets the criteria to receive disability benefits. The Blue Book has listings for the different body systems, but there is not a specific listing for Lyme Diseases. You can, however, meet a listing that applies to your symptoms and side effects from the disease. Lyme Disease can affect the cardiovascular system, cause inflammatory arthritis, or lead to neurological issues.

To qualify with neurological symptoms from Lyme Disease, you would use [Section 11.00](#) of the Blue Book. Disability Determination Services will look for disorganization of motor function that results in an extreme limitation of your ability to stand up after having been seated, balance while walking or standing, or use the upper extremities. Extreme limitation involves the inability to stand up from a seated position and after you have taken a seat, you are unable to stand and maintain an upright position without the help of someone, and the inability to maintain balance in standing position - which means that you are unable to maintain an upright position while standing or walking without the help of a medical device or another person.

Being Approved If You Don't Meet the Listing

You can still be approved for disability benefits if you don't meet the specific criteria of a Blue Book listing. You can use a [medical vocational allowance](#), which involves considering your medical condition, your symptoms, any side effects from treatment, restrictions and limitations, age, educational background, and work history. A residual functional capacity will be used to determine what job - if any - you can do. If it is determined you cannot do any work, you will be approved for disability benefits.

Applying for Benefits

To apply for disability benefits, visit the [SSA's website](#) or call 1-800-772-1213 and talk with a representative. You can also call the toll-free number to schedule an appointment at your local [SSA field office](#) to start the application process. Remember, documentation and hard medical evidence is the key to a successful disability claim.

Resources Found Via:

- https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/print_lyme_2016.pdf
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/ssdi/qualify-for-ssdi>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/social-security-blue-book>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/11.00-Neurological-Adult.htm>
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0425025005>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability.html>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/locator>