

# PFTs and Social Security Disability

# Disability Basics

- The Blue Book - the one reference you need [Disability Evaluation Under Social Security](#)
- Definition of Disability and Other Terms
- Sequential evaluation
- Residual Functional Capacity and Vocational Rules
- Listing of Impairments
- Pulmonary Function Testing in the Program

# Definitions

Disability: The law (Title 42 USC 1382c) defines disability as the inability to do any substantial gainful activity (SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment (MDI) which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. To meet this definition, you must have a severe impairment(s) that makes you unable to do your past relevant work or any other substantial gainful work that exists in the national economy.

- SGA
- MDI
- Symptoms and Opinions

Who decides if a claimant meets SSA's definition of disability?

- Determination vs Decision
- Team - DE and doc
- Disability Examiner Decisional Authority or DEDA

# Sequential Evaluation

1. Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA): If the applicant is working and earning above a certain limit, they are not disabled.
2. Severity of Impairment: The condition must significantly limit basic work activities.
3. Meeting or Equaling a Listing: The impairment must meet or equal a [SSA listing of impairments](#).
4. Past Relevant Work: If the applicant can do their previous work, they are not disabled.
5. Other Work: If the applicant cannot do past work, the SSA considers age, education, and experience to see if they can adjust to other, less demanding work.

# Residual Functional Capacity

The most a person can do over the course of an 8 hour day, 40 hours per week, or an equivalent schedule.

RFC considers both physical and mental impairments

- Sedentary: Lifting 10 lbs maximum, sitting 6 hours, standing/walking 2 hours.
- Light: Lifting 20 lbs maximum, frequent lifting of 10 lbs, significant walking/standing.
- Medium: Lifting 50 lbs maximum, frequent lifting of 25 lbs.
- Heavy: Lifting 100 lbs maximum, frequent lifting of 50 lbs

[VOCATIONAL Rules](#)

# Listing of Impairments

Describes for each of the major body systems impairments considered severe enough to prevent an individual from doing any gainful activity, regardless of his or her age, education, or work experience.

- Separate set of listings for adults and children
- 14 body systems
- Preamble
- Requirements to meet individual listings

# The Respiratory Listings

Preamble

Specific Listings with PFT requirements

- 3.02 Chronic Respiratory Disorders - any cause except for Cystic Fibrosis
- 3.03 Asthma
- 3.04 Cystic Fibrosis

[Disability Evaluation Under Social Security](#)

# Does SSA always need PFTs?

NO.

Why not?

- Some listings have alternate ways to meet
- Residual Functional Capacity.