

How to Qualify for Social Security Disability Benefits With Breast Cancer

There are hundreds of different kinds of cancers but breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer. A woman has a one in eight chance of developing breast cancer during her lifetime and the risk of getting breast cancer gets higher as women age. If you have breast cancer and expect to be unable to work for at least 12 months you can file a claim for Social Security disability benefits. [Social Security disability benefits](#) can be used to pay for living expenses while you are unable to work.

Qualifying For Disability Benefits Because Of Breast Cancer

Anyone who expects to be unable to work for a year can file a claim for disability benefits. But in order for that claim to be approved for benefits you will have to meet the standards set in the Social Security Administration's [Blue Book](#). The Blue Book lists all of the conditions that qualify someone to receive disability benefits and the criteria that must be met in order for their claim to be approved.

Breast cancer does qualify for disability benefits but [only if certain criteria is met](#). In order to be approved for Social Security disability benefits due to breast cancer the cancer must be one of these four types:

- An advanced breast cancer that has spread to the chest, skin, or internal mammary nodes.
- A carcinoma that has spread above or below the collarbone, has spread to 10+ nearby nodes, or spread to distant regions of the chest.
- A carcinoma that returns after anticancer therapy.
- Small-cell carcinoma.

Advanced breast cancer can qualify for benefits with just a medical diagnosis. The other types of cancer will require medical documentation to prove the condition. Medical documentation can be medical records, test results, treatment plans, hospital bills, or anything that provides evidence of the cancer.

Medical Vocational Allowance

If you have early stage breast cancer and you expect to be unable to work but your cancer doesn't meet the criteria listed in the Blue Book, there is a way that you can still qualify for benefits. File a claim for Social Security disability benefits and check the box indicating you want a [Residual Functional Capacity](#) (RFC) evaluation. This evaluation is done by the SSA and it is supposed to see if there is any type of work that you can do with your skill set and your medical condition. If there is no work that you can reasonably do because of treatment or because you're too sick even though you don't meet the Blue Book listing you can be approved for benefits under the Medical Vocational Allowance exception.

Applying For Social Security Disability Benefits

You can apply for Social Security disability benefits [online if that's easier for you](#). Or you can make an appointment to apply in person at your [local Social Security office](#). If you have questions about the application or if you need help filling out the application you should apply in person so that a staff member from the SSA can help you. Once you are approved, your benefits can be used to help with daily living needs, such as rent, medication, utilities, etc.

Helpful Links:

Social Security Disability Benefits: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>

SSA's Blue Book: <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/AdultListings.htm>

Qualifying with Breast Cancer: <https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/social-security-disabling-conditions/breast-cancer>

RFC Form: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms/images/SSA4/G-SSA-4734-U8-1.pdf>

Online Application: <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/dib>

SSA Office Locations: <https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/state-social-security-disability>