

How To Qualify For Social Security Disability Benefits With Sarcoma

A cancer diagnosis can be devastating on many levels even when the cancer is caught early. The ongoing medical treatment can affect your finances while the diagnosis can affect you mentally and emotionally as the cancer affects your physical well-being. If you have been diagnosed with sarcoma and you are unable to work and earn a living, you may qualify for Social Security Disability benefits. The Social [Security Administration \(SSA\)](#) oversees both Social Security Disability Insurance ([SSDI](#)) and Supplemental Security Income ([SSI](#)), both of which are disability programs.

How to Qualify Via a Compassionate Allowance

The SSA uses a medical guide, which is called the [Blue Book](#), to determine if a claimant qualifies for disability benefits. There are sections covering different body systems and listings for different disabling conditions that apply to that system. Each listing has detailed medical criteria that must be met for a claim to be approved.

Some conditions warrant faster approval just so long as you can provide [medical records](#) confirming the diagnosis. Soft tissue sarcomas often qualify for disability benefits even when caught in the early stages. The [Compassionate Allowances \(CAL\) program](#) has soft tissue sarcomas on the list. That means if you can provide medical documentation confirming the diagnosis of a soft tissue sarcoma, your claim will be approved within a matter of weeks rather than months.

With [soft tissue sarcoma](#), you must prove there are either regional or distant metastases or that the cancer has persisted or recurred after the initial antineoplastic therapy. If you have skeletal system sarcoma, you must prove that the cancer is inoperable, the tumor is recurrent after initial antineoplastic therapy, or that there are distant metastases.

With sarcoma of the female genital tract, you must prove that the cancer has metastasized and spread into other areas. You will need to provide proof of diagnosis along with the treatment records detailing the severity of the condition.

SSDI vs SSI

SSDI is a disability program based off the claimant's work history. You will need to provide a detailed work history for the last 10 years. On average, you must have worked the equivalent of 5 years full-time out of the last 10 years. SSI is a needs-based program and does not require a work history, but specific financial criteria must be met. You must provide proof of income and details of financial assets. You should gather paystubs, bank statements, property deeds, vehicle registrations, and investment records. The SSA uses a process called deeming, which involves adding up the totals and then making deductions for members of the household.

Applying For Disability Benefits

If you have been diagnosed with sarcoma and you are unable to work, you will need to gather supporting documentation, specifically medical records, to get your claim underway. You can start the [claims process online](#) or by calling 1-800-772-1213 and speaking with a representative. You can also call the toll-free number to schedule an appointment at one of the field offices located across the country.

Resources Found Via:

- <https://www.ssa.gov/>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/social-security-disability-medical-sources>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/faq/compassionate-allowance-program>
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lrx/0423022326>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/>