

The Social Security Disability Process and the Brain Injury Case

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The Social Security Administration administers two programs which provide benefits to individuals who are too disabled to work: the Social Security disability insurance program (SSDI) and the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI). The medical requirements for both programs are the same, but the non-medical eligibility standards are completely different. SSI eligibility on the non medical side requires that the claimant establish that he is indigent.

SSDI provides financial protection for workers and their dependents in the event of disability from a severe impairment which prevents them from engaging in substantial gainful activity (SGA) for at least twelve continuous months. In 2012, the SGA level is \$1010.00 per month or \$1690.00 per month for blind workers. After 24 months of entitlement to SSDI a worker becomes Medicare eligible. The SSDI program, and Medicare Insurance are funded through payroll taxes (Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA)) provided by both employers and their employees. For 2012, a worker does not pay any SS tax on earnings over the maximum taxable amount of \$110,100.00 ¹

From 1972 to 2009, SSDI and SSI benefits increased annually with a cost-of-living adjustment to protect worker's benefits from erosion as a result of inflation. However, COLA adjustments were not provided as part of SSD or SSI benefits from 2009 through 2011 as a result of the absence of inflation for those years. However, COLA adjustments were restored to SSI beneficiaries beginning December 2011, and for more than 60 million SSD beneficiaries in January 2012. The recently restored COLA adjustment increased SS benefits by 3.6%.²

To qualify for SSDI benefits, an individual must first satisfy the non medical requirements for entitlement in that he/she must meet two different earnings tests ³

¹ www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/sga.html

² www.socialsecurity.gov/cola

³ www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html. and www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11015.html

1) a “recent work test” based on the worker’s age at the time he/she became disabled; and

2) a “duration of work” test to determine whether the worker worked long enough to satisfy the SS rules

Generally, a worker over the age of 30 must have worked five of the last ten years prior to disability onset and have accumulated at least 20 quarters of coverage to be “insured” for SSDI purposes. (See Quarters of Coverage Chart annexed)

The amount of earnings required for a quarter of coverage (QC) in 2012 is \$1130.

Below the age of 30, different quarterly requirements govern depending on the age of the worker: “in or before the quarter a worker turns age 24, the worker generally requires 1.5 years of work during the three year period ending with the quarter disability began”; “In the quarter after the worker turns age 24 but before the quarter the worker turns age 31, work during half the time for the period beginning with the quarter after the worker turned 21 and ending with the quarter the worker became disabled.”⁴

The “duration of work” test requires that an individual who becomes disabled at a certain age, must have worked for a certain period of time: Before age 28, 1.5 years; age 30, 2 years; age 34, 3 years; age 38, 4 years; age 42, 5 years; age 44, 5.5 years; age 46, 6 years; age 48, 6.5 years; age 50, 7 years; age 52, 7.5 years; age 54, 8 years; age 56, 8.5 years; age 58, 9 years; age 60, 9.5 years⁵

Once the non-medical requirements have been satisfied, SSDI entitlement undergoes a medical evaluation. Each and every SSDI and SSI case undergoes

⁴ www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029/11015.html

⁵ www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029/11015.html

the same medical and vocational evaluation known as the Sequential Evaluation Process. (SEP) The five step SEP will be discussed below.

Application and Appeal Process:

There are three methods to apply for (SSDI) (Except for Adult Disabled Children who must presently apply in person):

- 1) By Telephone: 1-800-772-1213 or for those hard of hearing or deaf: 1-800-325-0778
- 2) Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability
- 3) In person at the local SSA District Office (DO)(to locate the correct DO, access it online by supplying the worker's (claimant's) zip code:⁶ (or call the 800 number above and provide the zip code to the operator who can supply the correct DO to contact)

After the application has been filed, SSA sends each case to the New Jersey (or other state) Department of Labor, Division of Disability Services (DDS) for Medical and Vocational Review. (SSA contracts with each State to do the Medical/Vocational Review). During this process, a claimant may be scheduled for a Consultative Exam by a physician. The cost of that Exam is borne by the Social Security Administration.

To support a claim, a claimant must supply medical documentation of illness. Treating sources may be difficult to locate and the practitioner may be aided by going online with the name of the physician and the last known address, and utilizing sources such as the AMA website⁷.

All Claimants who retain counsel must, along with the attorney, sign form SSA-1696, Appointment of Representative which must be submitted to the SSA DO. Any attorneys who wish to charge a fee must also submit a fee agreement (See Fee Agreement Attached) to receive a fee up to the time a favorable decision is rendered. If a Fee Agreement is not submitted prior to the time a favorable decision is rendered, the Claimant's attorney must

⁶ <http://s044a90.ssa.gov/apps6z/fofo/fo001.jsp>

⁷ <http://webapps.ama-assn.org/doctorfinder/html/patienthtml>

submit a fee petition. Both the fee agreement and the fee petition must be approved by SSA.

To receive Direct Payment of Attorney Fees, an attorney must be registered with SSA and access the Appointed Representative Service on the SSA website and Complete Form 1699.

After the initial application and forms are reviewed by DDS, a decision is rendered and the file is returned to the SSA District Office where a Notice of the decision is generated and sent to the Claimant.

If a decision is unfavorable (denying benefits), the Claimant will have 60 (plus five) days to appeal the decision with the DO. This appeal is called “Request for Reconsideration.” It can also be done in person at the DO; by mail (after completing form SSA-561-U2); or online⁸

Once the appeal is received by the DO, it is reviewed again by DDS for further medical and vocational review, and completion of additional forms.

The second review process is known as “reconsideration.” It is the same as the initial level, and once DDS has completed its second review and rendered a decision, the file is returned again to the DO where a Notice is issued to the Claimant. Once again, if a decision is unfavorable, the Claimant has 60 (plus five) days to request an appeal. At this stage, the Claimant must undertake the third level of review and make a request for “A Hearing Before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)” which can be done by downloading the PDF version of Form HA-501 and printing it, complete and sign the form and mail it to the local DO within the 60 (plus five) days to appeal, or file the request online.⁹

A de novo hearing is then conducted before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. There are ten regional ODAR offices with 146 hearing offices (including 5 satellite offices) and 4 national hearing centers. New Jersey is part of Region II with hearing offices in Newark and Voorhees.

⁸ www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ssa-561.pdf

⁹ ID

The applicable Code of Federal Regulations pertaining to SS or SSI disability review can be accessed online.¹⁰ www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/cfr20/cfrdoc.htm

For free access of SS Hearings Policy and Procedures, the HALLEX manual is available for review online at:

A non-adversarial hearing is conducted before an ALJ, and if an unfavorable decision is rendered, the claimant has 60 (plus five days) to request review by the Appeals Council.

The Appeals Council represents the last level of administrative review within the Social Security Administration. The Appeals Council is located in Falls Church, Virginia with additional offices in Baltimore, Maryland. Review must be requested in writing by completing Form HA-520-U5. It must be sent directly to the Appeals Council, SSA/ODAR, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Va. 22041-3255. Review can also be requested at the Social Security District Office in person or by calling the SSA 800 number (1-800-SSA (772)-1213).

An appeal to the Appeals Council should be accompanied by an appeal missive setting forth the reasons why the decision of the ALJ was not supported by substantial evidence, or by the regulations. Moreover, new and material evidence may be introduced at this point that impacts whether the decision of the ALJ was proper.

Electronic Disability Guide (eDG) is a repository for policy, process and procedure changes for offices processing disability cases as SSA transitions to electronic processing for disability claims. The SSA website breaks down the components of eDG as follows:

*DI 805: [Electronic Disability Guide \(eDG\)](#)
This chapter contains an overview of the electronic process, the eDib Internet Intake Process, Internet Disability Reports, eView information, and ODAR's Case Processing and Management System*

¹⁰ www.socialsecurity.gov/OPHome/hallex/hallex.html

for disability cases when a paper folder is the official folder.

DI 806: [Electronic Disability Procedures](#)
This chapter contains the electronic disability procedures for the components that process or review disability cases when a paper folder is the official folder.

DI 807: [DI 810: Electronic Disability Guide \(eDG\) Procedures for the Electronic Process](#)
This chapter contains an overview of the certified electronic process, the eDib Internet Intake Process, Internet Disability Reports and eView information for States certified to process disability cases in a fully electronic environment (without a paper folder).

DI 808: [Electronic Disability Guide \(eDG\) Procedures for the Certified Electronic Process](#)
This chapter contains the certified electronic disability procedures for the components that process or review disability cases in States certified to process cases in a fully electronic environment (without a paper folder).

As was noted above, the Appeals Council is the last level of administrative review within the Social Security Administration. If a claimant disagrees with an Appeals Council decision he can file a civil suit in federal district court. If a civil suit is filed in federal district court seeking review of the Social Security Administration final decision, SSA will prepare the record of the claim for filing with the Court which will include all the documents and evidence SSA relied upon in making the decision or determination.

The civil action should be filed in the district court of the United States for the judicial district in which the claimant resides. There is a charge for filing a civil action in Federal court, which may be waived if the claimant is indigent.¹¹

The Appeals Council notice of decision will state that if a claimant files a civil action in federal district court a copy of the summons and complaint must be sent to the Social Security Administration's Office of General Counsel that handles the area where the complaint is filed.¹²

Attached to this paper is a redacted Summons, Complaint and application to proceed In forma pauperis for indigent claimants.

SEQUENTIAL EVALUATION PROCESS

The Social Security Act has established a five-step sequential evaluation process for determining whether an individual is disabled (20 CFR 404.1520(a).) The steps are followed in order. If it is determined that the claimant is or is not disabled at all but the third step of the evaluation process, the evaluation will not go on to the next step.

Moreover, as a threshold matter, all claimants must satisfy the durational requirement in all SSI and SSD cases. The durational requirement demands that the claimant document he suffers from a severe impairment or combination of impairments which prevent him from engaging in substantial gainful activity for twelve continuous months or results in death.

At step one, the claimant must establish that he has not been engaged in or will be unable to engage in substantial gainful activity (20 CFR 404.1520 (b) for at least 12 continuous months as a result of his severe impairment or combination of impairments. Substantial gainful activity

¹¹ www.njd.uscourts.gov/genfilingfees.html and for general information on filing complaints in federal district court see www.njd.uscourts.gov/FAQs.html and <http://ecf.njd.uscourts.gov>; claimants must be granted leave to proceed In forma pauperis.

¹² For information on the office near the claimant, see POMS [GN 03106.020](#)
[Service of Process](#)

(SGA) is defined as work activity that is both substantial and gainful. "Substantial work activity" is work activity that involves doing significant physical or mental activities (20 CFR 404.1572 (a)). "Gainful work activity" is work that is usually done for pay or profit, whether or not a profit is realized (20 CFR 404.1572(b)). Generally, if an individual has earnings from employment or self-employment above a specific level (see above SGA levels for 2012) it is presumed that he has demonstrated the ability to engage in SGA (20 CFR 404.1574 and 404.1575). If an individual is determined to be performing SGA, he is adjudicated as not disabled and the review process ends at step One. If the individual is found not to be engaging in SGA, the analysis proceeds to the second step.

At step two, the question is whether the claimant suffers from a medically determinable impairment or combination of impairments that are "severe" (20 CFR) 404.1520 (c). In this context, an impairment or combination of impairments are severe if it significantly limits an individual's ability to perform basic work activities. An impairment or combination of impairments is "not severe" when medical and other evidence establish only a slight abnormality or a combination of slight abnormalities that would have no more than a minimal effect on an individual's ability to work (20 CFR 404.1521; Social Security Rulings (SSRs) 85-28, 96-3p, and 96-4p). In determining whether a claimant satisfies this step, a "residual functional capacity" analysis should be employed. (See 20 CFR 404.1520(e)) Essentially a residual functional capacity analysis asks after the effects of the severe impairments are considered, what level of function is a claimant left with? In the context of a severe brain injury, the functional limitations might include problems with memory, concentration, focus, fatigue related functional deficits, mood disturbance, limitations with respect to walking or standing as a result of balance issues, visual limitations, among other significant issues.

Once again, these limitations must be the result of a medically documented impairment. Neuropsychological test results can be ordered to determine the existence of memory and concentration deficits. And while traditional medical Imaging tests such as MRIs, CT Scans, SPECT Scans, EEGs and PET scans may not document a brain injury, the particular TBI must be carefully evaluated to determine whether such diagnostics have been performed and what they do or do not document in an individual case. One tool which could be utilized in this context is one now administered to young athletes: the ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) which is a computerized exam that tests athletes' brain function at the beginning of the season to establish their individual baseline. If the child is then injured during the season, the test is again administered to determine whether there are cognitive deficits in areas such as memory, reaction time and processing speed. This tool can compare an athlete's post concussive function to that of his individual baseline. While theoretically the ImPact test is a tool used only to determine when and if a young athlete can return to play following recovery, it can also be used in the future for those athletes when they become adults and suffer any additional brain injuries.

At Step Two, all impairments considered have to be severe in this context and must be medically documented.

If the claimant does not have a severe medically determinable impairment or combination of impairment or combination of impairments, he is not disabled and the process ends at Step Two. If the claimant has a severe impairment or combination of impairments, the analysis proceeds to the third step.

At step three, the question posed is whether the claimant's impairment or combination of impairments meets or medically equals the criteria of an impairment listed in 20

CFR Part 404, Subpart P, Appendix 1 (20 CFR 404.1520 (d), 404.1525, and 404,1526). If the claimant's impairment or combination of impairments meets or medically equals the criteria of a listing and meets the duration requirement (20 CFR 404.1509) the claimant is disabled. If it does not, unlike the prior steps, the analysis can proceed to Step 4. Step 3 is the only step in the five step sequential evaluation process that does not have to be answered in claimant's favor to proceed to the next step.

Under a Step 3 analysis for a brain injury claim, the case would be evaluated under Impairment Listing 11.00 Neurological Impairments:

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Disability Evaluation Under Social Security

Search Blue Book

11.00 Neurological – Adult

[Adult Listings \(Part A\)](#)

F. *Traumatic brain injury (TBI)*. The guidelines for evaluating impairments caused by cerebral trauma are contained in 11.18. Listing 11.18 states that cerebral trauma is to be evaluated under 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, and 12.02, as applicable.

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TBI may result in neurological and mental impairments with a wide variety of posttraumatic symptoms and signs. The rate and extent of recovery can be highly variable and the long-term outcome may be difficult to predict in the first few months post-injury. Generally, the neurological impairment (s) will stabilize more rapidly than any mental impairment (s). Sometimes a mental impairment may appear to improve immediately following TBI and then worsen, or, conversely, it may appear much worse initially but improve after a few months. Therefore, the mental findings immediately following TBI may not reflect the actual severity of your mental impairment (s). The actual severity of a mental impairment may not become apparent until 6 months post-injury.

In some cases, evidence of a profound neurological impairment is sufficient to permit a finding of disability within 3 months post-injury. If a finding of disability within 3 months post-injury is not possible based on any neurological impairment (s), we will defer adjudication of the claim until we obtain evidence of your neurological or mental impairments at least 3 months post-injury. If a finding of disability still is not possible at that time, we will again defer adjudication of the claim until we obtain evidence at least 6 months post-injury. At that time, we will fully evaluate any neurological and mental impairments and adjudicate the claim.

11.18 Cerebral trauma.

Evaluate under the provisions of 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, and 12.02, as applicable.

11.01 Category of Impairments, Neurological

11.02 Epilepsy - convulsive epilepsy, (grand mal or psychomotor), documented by detailed description of a typical seizure pattern, including all associated phenomena; occurring more frequently than once a month, in spite of at least 3 months of prescribed treatment. With:

A. Daytime episodes (loss of consciousness and convulsive seizures) or

B. Nocturnal episodes manifesting residuals which interfere significantly with activity during the day.

11.03 Epilepsy - nonconvulsive epilepsy (petit mal, psychomotor, or focal), documented by detailed description of a typical seizure pattern including all associated phenomena, occurring more frequently than once weekly in spite of at least 3 months of prescribed treatment.

With alteration of awareness or loss of consciousness and transient postictal manifestations of unconventional behavior or significant interference with activity during the day.

11.04 Central nervous system vascular accident. With one of the following more than 3 months post-vascular accident:

A. Sensory or motor aphasia resulting in ineffective speech or communication; or

B. Significant and persistent disorganization of motor function in two extremities, resulting in sustained disturbance of gross and dexterous movements, or gait and station (see 11.00C).

12.02 Organic mental disorders:

Psychological or behavioral abnormalities associated with a dysfunction of the brain. History and physical examination or laboratory tests demonstrate the presence of a specific organic factor judged to be etiologically related to the abnormal mental state and loss of previously acquired functional abilities.

The required level of severity for these

disorders is met when the requirements in both A and B are satisfied, or when the requirements in C are satisfied.

A. Demonstration of a loss of specific cognitive abilities or affective changes and the medically documented persistence of at least one of the following:

1. Disorientation to time and place; or
2. Memory impairment, either short-term (inability to learn new information), intermediate, or long-term (inability to remember information that was known sometime in the past); or
3. Perceptual or thinking disturbances (e.g., hallucinations, delusions); or
4. Change in personality; or
5. Disturbance in mood; or
6. Emotional lability (e.g., explosive temper outbursts, sudden crying, etc.) and impairment in impulse control; or
7. Loss of measured intellectual ability of at least 15 I.Q. points from premorbid levels or overall impairment index clearly within the severely impaired range on neuropsychological testing, e.g., Luria-Nebraska, Halstead-Reitan, etc;

AND

B. Resulting in at least two of the following:

1. Marked restriction of activities of daily

living; or

2. Marked difficulties in maintaining social functioning; or

3. Marked difficulties in maintaining concentration, persistence, or pace; or

4. Repeated episodes of decompensation, each of extended duration;

OR

C. Medically documented history of a chronic organic mental disorder of at least 2 years' duration that has caused more than a minimal limitation of ability to do basic work activities, with symptoms or signs currently attenuated by medication or psychosocial support, and one of the following:

1. Repeated episodes of decompensation, each of extended duration; or

2. A residual disease process that has resulted in such marginal adjustment that even a minimal increase in mental demands or change in the environment would be predicted to cause the individual to decompensate; or

3. Current history of 1 or more years' inability to function outside a highly supportive living arrangement, with an indication of continued need for such an arrangement

Prior to an analysis under Step four another residual functional capacity analysis must occur (See Step 2 and 20

CFR 404.1520 (e)). The Code requires an analysis of the claimant's physical and mental work activities on a sustained basis despite limitations from her impairments. At Step 4, all the claimant's impairments, including impairments that are not severe (20 CFR 404.1520(e) and 404.1545; SSR 96-9p) are considered.

At step four, the question asked is whether the claimant has the residual functional capacity to perform the requirements of his past relevant work (20 CFR 404.1520 (f): work performed either as the claimant actually performed it or as it is generally performed in the national economy within the last 15 years prior to the date that disability must be established. If the claimant has the residual functional capacity to do his past relevant work or if the claimant (in this case an SSI claimant) has no past relevant work, the analysis proceeds to the fifth and final step in the sequential evaluation process.

At the last step of the sequential evaluation process (20 CFR 404. 520 (g)), it must be determined whether the claimant is able to do any other work with consideration of his residual functional capacity and age, education, and work experience. If the claimant is able to do other work in the national economy he is not disabled. Although the claimant generally continues to have the burden of proving disability at this step, a limited burden of going forward with the evidence shifts to the Social Security Administration. In order to support a finding that an individual is not disabled at this step, the Social Security Administration is responsible for providing evidence that demonstrates that other work exists in significant numbers in the national economy that the claimant can do, given the residual functional capacity, age, education, and work experience (20 CFR 404.1512 (g) and 404.1560 (c)).

At this stage, the Medical Vocational Guidelines set forth below, come into play. If a worker is older, unskilled with marginal education, this "GRID" (as it is commonly called) is frequently utilized to support a finding of disability. However, for younger, skilled and highly educated workers, the GRID may provide an obstacle to disability unless he suffers from impairments which result in both "exertional" and "non exertional" functional limitation. In that case, the GRID is only to be utilized as a framework unless it directs a finding of disability. The more non exertional limitations (ie-those limitations which do not affect strength demands such as memory, concentration, seeing, hearing, sensing, smelling etc...)the claimant experiences, the less applicability the GRID has. The more Exertional limitations affect a worker's ability to perform duties which affect physical strength (see the POMS cited further down which represents a Medical Vocational Quick Reference Guide) whereas non-exertional limitations are impairment caused limitations of a work activity that is not one of the seven strength factors (i.e- lifting, carrying, standing, walking, sitting, pushing and pulling)

While individuals suffering from brain injuries may indeed be limited in all of the seven strength categories, they will also be limited in non strength demands which can include visual disturbances such as double vision or changes in vision, sensitivity to light or sound, fatigue which impacts a variety of strength and non strength demands such as staying awake, difficulty with concentration and short term memory, the ability to ambulate which can be affected by balance or dizziness. These non exertional limitations can vitiate whatever vocational benefit is presumed in a younger, educated and skilled worker. In such a case, a claimant with documented brain injuries, which impact their residual functional capacity to substantially erode his ability to

perform most sedentary and non exertional work demands whether younger or not, can be found disabled under the Act.

Social Security Online	POMS Section: DI 25025.005
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Effective Dates: 08/04/2011 - Present

TN 5 (02-02)

DI 25025.005 Exhibit of Appendix 2 - Medical-Vocational Guidelines

Section

200.00 Introduction

201.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to sedentary work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s)

202.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to light work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s)

203.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to medium work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s)

204.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to heavy work (or very heavy work) as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s)

A. 200.00 Introduction

(a) The following rules reflect the major functional and vocational patterns which are encountered in cases which cannot be evaluated on medical considerations alone, where an individual with a severe medically determinable physical or mental impairment(s) is not engaging in substantial gainful activity and the individual's impairment(s) prevents the performance of his or her vocationally relevant past work. They also reflect the analysis of the various vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) in combination with the individual's residual functional capacity (used to determine his or her maximum sustained work capability for sedentary, light, medium, heavy, or very heavy work) in evaluating the individual's ability to engage in substantial gainful activity in other than his or her vocationally relevant past work. Where the findings of fact made with respect

to a particular individual's vocational factors and residual functional capacity coincide with all of the criteria of a particular rule, the rule directs a conclusion as to whether the individual is or is not disabled. However, each of these findings of fact is subject to rebuttal and the individual may present evidence to refute such findings. Where any one of the findings of fact does not coincide with the corresponding criterion of a rule, the rule does not apply in that particular case and, accordingly, does not direct a conclusion of disabled or not disabled. In any instance where a rule does not apply, full consideration must be given to all of the relevant facts of the case in accordance with the definitions and discussions of each factor in the appropriate sections of the regulations.

(b) The existence of jobs in the national economy is reflected in the Decisions shown in the rules, i.e., in promulgating the rules, administrative notice has been taken of the numbers of unskilled jobs that exist throughout the national economy at the various functional levels (sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy) as supported by the Dictionary of Occupational Titles and the Occupational Outlook Handbook, published by the Department of Labor; the County Business Patterns and Census Surveys published by the Bureau of the Census; and occupational surveys of light and sedentary jobs prepared for the Social Security Administration by various State employment agencies. Thus, when all factors coincide with the criteria of a rule, the existence of such jobs is established. However, the existence of such jobs for individuals whose remaining functional capacity or other factors do not coincide with the criteria of a rule must be further considered in terms of what kinds of jobs or types of work may be either additionally indicated or precluded.

(c) In the application of the rules, the individual's residual functional capacity (i.e., the maximum degree to which the individual retains the capacity for sustained performance of the physical-mental requirements of jobs), age, education, and work experience must first be determined.

(d) The correct disability decision (i.e., on the issue of ability to engage in substantial gainful activity) is found by then locating the individual's specific vocational profile. If an individual's specific profile is not listed within this Appendix 2, a conclusion of disabled or not disabled is not directed. Thus, for example, an individual's ability to engage in substantial gainful work where his or her residual functional capacity falls between the ranges of work indicated in the rules (e.g., the individual who can perform more than light but less than medium work), is decided on the basis of the principles and definitions in the regulations, giving consideration to the rules for specific case situations in this Appendix 2. These rules represent various combinations of exertional capabilities, age, education and work experience and also provide an overall structure for evaluation

of those cases in which the judgments as to each factor do not coincide with those of any specific rule. Thus, when the necessary judgments have been made as to each factor and it is found that no specific rule applies, the rules still provide guidance for decision making, such as in cases involving combinations of impairments. For example, if strength limitations resulting from an individual's impairment(s) considered with the judgments made as to the individual's age, education and work experience correspond to (or closely approximate) the factors of a particular rule, the adjudicator then has a frame of reference for considering the jobs or types of work precluded by other, nonexertional impairments in terms of numbers of jobs remaining for a particular individual.

(e) Since the rules are predicated on an individual's having an impairment which manifests itself by limitations in meeting the strength requirements of jobs, they may not be fully applicable where the nature of an individual's impairment does not result in such limitations, e.g., certain mental, sensory, or skin impairments. In addition, some impairments may result solely in postural and manipulative limitations or environmental restrictions. Environmental restrictions are those restrictions which result in inability to tolerate some physical feature(s) of work settings that occur in certain industries or types of work, e.g., an ability to tolerate dust or fumes.

1. In the evaluation of disability where the individual has solely a nonexertional type of impairment, determination as to whether disability exists shall be based on the principles in the appropriate sections of the regulations, giving consideration to the rules for specific case situations in this Appendix 2. The rules do not direct factual conclusions of disabled or not disabled for individuals with solely nonexertional types of impairments.
2. However, where an individual has an impairment or combination of impairments resulting in both strength limitations and nonexertional limitations, the rules in this subpart are considered in determining first whether a finding of disabled may be possibly based on the strength limitations alone and, if not, the rule(s) reflecting the individual's maximum residual strength capabilities, age, education, and work experience provide a framework for consideration of how much the individual's work capability is further diminished in terms of any types of jobs that would be contraindicated by the nonexertional limitations. Also, in these combinations of nonexertional and exertional limitations which cannot be wholly determined under the rules of this Appendix 2, full consideration must be given to all of the relevant facts in the case in accordance with the definitions and discussions of each factor in the appropriate sections of the

regulations, which will provide insight into the adjudicative weight to be accorded each factor.

B. 201.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to sedentary work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s).

(a) Most sedentary occupations fall within the skilled, semiskilled, professional, administrative, technical, clerical, and benchwork classifications. Approximately 200 separate unskilled sedentary occupations can be identified, each representing numerous jobs in the national economy. Approximately 85 percent of these jobs are in the machine trades and benchwork occupational categories. These jobs (unskilled sedentary occupations) may be performed after a short demonstration or within 30 days.

(b) These unskilled sedentary occupations are standard within the industries in which they exist. While sedentary work represents a significantly restricted range of work, this range in itself is not so prohibitively restricted as to negate work capability for substantial gainful activity.

(c) Vocational adjustment to sedentary work may be expected where the individual has special skills or experience relevant to sedentary work or where age and basic educational competences provide sufficient occupational mobility to adapt to the major segment of unskilled sedentary work. Inability to engage in substantial gainful activity would be indicated where an individual who is restricted to sedentary work because of a severe medically determinable impairment lacks special skills or experience relevant to sedentary work, lacks educational qualifications relevant to most sedentary work (e.g., has a limited education or less) and the individual's age, though not necessarily advanced, is a factor which significantly limits vocational adaptability.

(d) The adversity of functional restrictions to sedentary work at advanced age (55 or over) for individuals with no relevant past work or who can no longer perform vocationally relevant past work and have no transferable skills, warrants a finding of disabled in the absence of the rare situation where the individual has recently completed education which provides a basis for direct entry into skilled sedentary work. Advanced age and a history of unskilled work or no work experience would ordinarily offset any vocational advantages that might accrue by reason of any remote past education, whether it is more or less than limited education.

(e) The presence of acquired skills that are readily transferable to a significant range of skilled work within an individual's residual functional capacity would ordinarily warrant a finding of ability to engage in substantial gainful activity regardless of the adversity of age, or whether the individual's formal education is

commensurate with his or her demonstrated skill level. The acquisition of work skills demonstrates the ability to perform work at the level of complexity demonstrated by the skill level attained regardless of the individual's formal educational attainments.

(f) In order to find transferability of skills to skilled sedentary work for individuals who are of advanced age (55 or over), there must be very little, if any, vocational adjustments required in terms of tools, work processes, work settings, or the industry.

(g) Individuals approaching advanced age (age 50-54) may be significantly limited in vocational adaptability if they are restricted to sedentary work. When such individuals have no past work experience or can no longer perform vocationally relevant skills, a finding of disabled ordinarily obtains. However, recently completed education which provides for direct entry into sedentary work will preclude such a finding. For this age group, even a high school education or more (ordinarily completed in the remote past) would have little impact for effecting a vocational adjustment unless relevant work experience reflects use of such education.

(h) (1) The term younger individual is used to denote an individual age 18 through 49. For individuals who are age 45-49, age is a less advantageous factor for making an adjustment to other work than for those who are age 18-44.

Accordingly, a finding of disabled is warranted for individuals age 45-49 who:

- i. Are restricted to sedentary work,
- ii. Are unskilled or have no transferable skills,
- iii. Have no past relevant work or can no longer perform past relevant work, and
- iv. Are either illiterate or unable to communicate in English.

(2) For individuals who are under age 45, age is a more advantageous factor for making an adjustment to other work. It is usually not a significant factor in limiting such individuals' ability to make an adjustment to other work, including an adjustment to unskilled sedentary work, even when the individuals are unable to communicate in English or are illiterate in English. (See [DI 25001.001](#) under "Education" for the definition of illiterate or unable to communicate in English.)

(3) Nevertheless, a decision of disabled may be appropriate for some individuals under age 45 (or individuals age 45-49 for whom rule 201.17 does not direct a decision of disabled) who do not have the ability to perform a full range of sedentary work. However, the inability to perform a full range of sedentary work does not necessarily equate with a finding of disabled. Whether an individual will be able to make an adjustment to other work requires an adjudicative assessment of factors such as the type and extent of the individual's limitations or restrictions and

the extent of the erosion of the occupational base. It requires an individualized determination that considers the impact of the limitations or restrictions on the number of sedentary, unskilled occupations or the total number of jobs to which the individual may be able to adjust, considering his or her age, education and work experience, including any transferable skills or education providing for direct entry into skilled work.

(4) Sedentary work represents a significantly restricted range of work, and individuals with a maximum sustained work capability limited to sedentary work have very serious functional limitations. Therefore, as with any case, a finding that an individual is limited to less than the full range of sedentary work will be based on careful consideration of the evidence of the individual's medical impairment(s) and the limitations and restrictions attributable to it. Such evidence must support the finding that the individual's residual functional capacity is limited to less than the full range of sedentary work.

(i) While illiteracy or the inability to communicate in English may significantly limit an individual's vocational scope, the primary work functions in the bulk of unskilled work relate to working with things (rather than with data or people) and in these work functions at the unskilled level, literacy or the ability to communicate in English has the least significance. Similarly the lack of relevant work experience would have little significance since the bulk of unskilled jobs require no qualifying work experience. Thus, the functional capability for a full range of sedentary work represents sufficient numbers of jobs to indicate substantial vocational scope for those individuals age 18-44 even if they are illiterate or unable to communicate in English.

TABLE NO. 1 - Residual functional capacity: Maximum sustained work capability limited to sedentary work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s)

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
201.01	Advanced age	Limited or less	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
201.02	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable ¹	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
201.03	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable ¹	Not disabled.
201.04	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into skilled work ²	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
201.05	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work ²	Do	Not disabled.
201.06	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into skilled work ²	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable ¹	Disabled.
201.07	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable ¹	Not disabled.
201.08	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work ²	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable ¹	Do
201.09	Closely approaching advanced age	Limited or less	Unskilled or none	Disabled.

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
201.10	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
201.11	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Not disabled.
201.12	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into skilled work ³	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
201.13	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work ³	Do	Not disabled.
201.14	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into skilled work ³	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Disabled.
201.15	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Not disabled.
201.16	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
		skilled work ³	transferable	
201.17	Younger individual age 45-49	Illiterate or unable to communicate in English	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
201.18	Do	Limited or less - at least literate and able to communicate in English	Do	Not disabled.
201.19	Do	Limited or less	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable.	Do ⁴
201.20	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
201.21	Do	High school graduate or more	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable.	Do
201.22	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
201.23	Younger individual age 18-44	Illiterate or unable to communicate in English	Unskilled or none	Do ⁴

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
201.24	Do	Limited or less - at least literate and able to communicate in English	Do	Do ⁴
201.25	Do	Limited or less	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do ⁴
201.26	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do ⁴
201.27	Do	High school graduate or more	Unskilled or none	Do ⁴
201.28	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do ⁴
201.29	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do ⁴

¹ See 201.00(f).

² See 201.00(d).

³ See 201.00(g).

⁴ See 201.00(h).

C. 202.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to light work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s).

(a) The functional capacity to perform a full range of light work includes the functional capacity to perform sedentary as well as light work. Approximately 1,600 separate sedentary and light unskilled occupations can be identified in eight broad occupational categories, each occupation representing numerous jobs in the national economy. These jobs can be performed after a short demonstration or within 30 days, and do not require special skills or experience.

(b) The functional capacity to perform a wide or full range of light work represents substantial work capability compatible with making a work adjustment to substantial numbers of unskilled jobs and, thus, generally provides sufficient occupational mobility even for severely impaired individuals who are not of advanced age and have sufficient educational competences for unskilled work.

(c) However, for individuals of advanced age who can no longer perform vocationally relevant past work and who have a history of unskilled work experience, or who have only skills that are not readily transferable to a significant range of semiskilled or skilled work that is within the individual's functional capacity, or who have no work experience, the limitations in vocational adaptability represented by functional restrictions to light work warrants a finding of disabled. Ordinarily, even a high school education or more which was completed in the remote past will have little positive impact on effecting a vocational adjustment unless relevant work experience reflects use of such education.

(d) Where the same factors in paragraph (c) of this section regarding education and work experience are present, but where age, though not advanced, is a factor which significantly limits vocational adaptability (i.e., closely approaching advanced age, 50-54) and an individual's vocational scope is further significantly limited by illiteracy or inability to communicate in English, a finding of disabled is warranted.

(e) The presence of acquired skills that are readily transferable to a significant range of semiskilled or skilled work within an individual's residual functional capacity would ordinarily warrant a finding of not disabled regardless of the adversity of age, of whether the individual's formal education is commensurate with his or her demonstrated skill level. The acquisition of work skills demonstrates the ability to perform work at the level of complexity demonstrated by the skill level attained regardless of the individual's formal educational attainments.

(f) For a finding of transferability of skills to light work for individuals of advanced age who are closely approaching retirement age (60 or older), there must be very little, if any, vocational adjustment required in terms of tools, work processes, work settings, or the industry.

(g) While illiteracy or the inability to communicate in English may significantly limit an individual's vocational scope, the primary work functions in the bulk of unskilled work relate to working with things (rather than with data or people) and in these work functions at the unskilled level, literacy or ability to communicate in English has the least significance. Similarly, the lack of relevant work experience would have little significance since the bulk of unskilled jobs require no qualifying work experience. The capability for light work, which includes the ability to do sedentary work, represents the capability for substantial numbers of such jobs. This, in turn, represents substantial vocational scope for younger individuals (age 18-49) even if illiterate or unable to communicate in English.

TABLE NO. 2 - Residual functional capacity: Maximum sustained work capability limited to light work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s)

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
202.01	Advanced age	Limited or less	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
202.02	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
202.03	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable ¹	Not disabled.
202.04	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into skilled work ²	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
202.05	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into	Do	Not disabled.

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
		skilled work ²		
202.06	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into skilled work ²	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Disabled.
202.07	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable ¹	Not disabled.
202.08	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work ²	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
202.09	Closely approaching advanced age	Illiterate or unable to communicate in English	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
202.10	Do	Limited or less - at least literate and able to communicate in English	Do	Not disabled.
202.11	Do	Limited or less	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
202.12	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
			transferable	
202.13	Do	High school graduate or more	Unskilled or none	Do
202.14	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
202.15	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
202.16	Younger individual	Illiterate or unable to communicate in English	Unskilled or none	Do
202.17	Do	Limited or less - at least literate and able to communicate in English	Do	Do
202.18	Do	Limited or less	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
202.19	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
202.20	Do	High school graduate	Unskilled or	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
		or more	none	
202.21	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
202.22	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do

¹ See 202.00(f)

² See 202.00(c)

D. 203.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to medium work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s).

(a) The functional capacity to perform medium work includes the functional capacity to perform sedentary, light, and medium work. Approximately 2,500 separate sedentary, light, and medium occupations can be identified, each occupant representing numerous jobs in the national economy which do not require skills or previous experience and which can be performed after a short demonstration or within 30 days.

(b) The functional capacity to perform medium work represents such substantial work capability at even the unskilled level that a finding of disabled is ordinarily not warranted in cases where a severely impaired individual retains the functional capacity to perform medium work. Even the adversity of advanced age (55 or over) and a work history of unskilled work may be offset by the substantial work capability represented by the functional capacity to perform medium work. However, an individual with a marginal education and long work experience (i.e., 35 years or more) limited to the performance of arduous unskilled labor, who is not working and is no longer able to perform this labor because of a severe impairment(s), may still be found disabled even though the individual is able to do medium work.

(c) However, the absence of any relevant work experience becomes a more significant adversity for individuals of advanced age (55 and over). Accordingly, this factor, in combination with a limited education or less, militates against making a vocational adjustment to even this substantial range of work and a finding of disabled is appropriate. Further, for individuals closely approaching retirement age (60 or older) with a work history of unskilled work and with marginal education or less, a finding of disabled is appropriate.

TABLE NO. 3 - Residual functional capacity: Maximum sustained work capability limited to medium work as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s)

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
203.01	Closely approaching retirement age	Marginal or none	Unskilled or none	Disabled.
203.02	Do	Limited or less	None	Do
203.03	Do	Limited	Unskilled	Not disabled.
203.04	Do	Limited or less	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
203.05	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.06	Do	High school graduate or more	Unskilled or none	Do
203.07	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
		direct entry into skilled work	transferable	
203.08	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.09	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
203.10	Advanced age	Limited or less	None	Disabled.
203.11	Do	Do	Unskilled	Not disabled.
203.12	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
203.13	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.14	Do	High school graduate or more	Unskilled or none	Do
203.15	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
		direct entry into skilled work	transferable	
203.16	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.17	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
203.18	Closely approaching advanced age	Limited or less	Unskilled or none	Do
203.19	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
203.20	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.21	Do	High school graduate or more	Unskilled or none	Do
203.22	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
		skilled work		
203.23	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.24	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
203.25	Younger individual	Limited or less	Unskilled or none	Do
203.26	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do
203.27	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.28	Do	High school graduate or more	Unskilled or none	Do
203.29	Do	High school graduate or more - does not provide for direct entry into skilled work	Skilled or semiskilled - skills not transferable	Do

Rule	Age	Education	Previous work experience	Decision
203.30	Do	Do	Skilled or semiskilled - skills transferable	Do
203.31	Do	High school graduate or more - provides for direct entry into skilled work	Skilled or semiskilled skills not transferable	Do

NOTE: See [DI 25015.025B](#). for title XVI claims in which the claimant is age 65 or older and is illiterate or cannot communicate in English. See [DI 25001.001](#) under “Education” for the definition of illiterate or unable to communicate in English.

E. 204.00 Maximum sustained work capability limited to heavy work (or very heavy work) as a result of severe medically determinable impairment(s).

The residual functional capacity to perform heavy work or very heavy work includes the functional capability for work at the lesser functional levels as well, and represents substantial work capability for jobs in the national economy at all skill and physical demand levels. Individuals who retain the functional capacity to perform heavy work (or very heavy work) ordinarily will not have a severe impairment or will be able to do their past work-either of which would have already provided a basis for a decision of not disabled. Environmental restrictions ordinarily would not significantly affect the range of work existing in the national economy for heavy work (or very heavy work). Thus, an impairment which does not preclude heavy work (or very heavy work) would not ordinarily be the primary reason for unemployment, and generally is sufficient for a finding of not disabled, even though age, education, and skill level of prior work experience may be considered adverse.

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Regulations - 20 CFR [404.1520](#) , [416.920](#) , [404.1545](#) through [404.1567](#) , [416.965](#) through [416.967](#) ;

Social Security Rulings - SSR 82-30 , [SSR 82-40](#) , [SSR 82-41](#) , [SSR 82-61](#) , [SSR 82-62](#) , [SSR 82-63](#) , [SSR 83-10](#) , [SSR 83-11](#) , [SSR 83-12](#) , [SSR 83-14](#) , [SSR 85-15](#) , SSR 96-8p , [SSR 96-9p](#) , [SSR 00-4p](#) , [SSR 03-3p](#) ,

The Appendix of The Selected Characteristics of Occupations Defined in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles

A. Introduction

- Commonly applied vocational concepts are summarized in this subchapter.
- Commonly used terms for medical-vocational evaluations are defined in this subchapter.
- Terms relating to jobs or occupations have the same definition that the Department of Labor uses in its publications, such as the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) or the Selected Characteristics of Occupations Defined in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (SCO).
- Words with a two-letter acronym after them are rated in the SCO using that acronym.

B. Quick Reference Guide

1. Accommodation (Ac)

Adjustment of the lens of the eye to bring an object into sharp focus.

2. Additional vocational adversities

Consider additional vocational adversities when deciding to use a claimant's chronological age in a borderline age issue. Additional vocational adversities can be in a claimant's residual functional capacity (RFC), education, or work experience. See [DI 25015.005](#) for the borderline age issue definition. See [DI 25015.001](#) for additional information on adversities.

- **RFC:** In borderline age issues, the adjudicator considers if limitations and restrictions in the RFC that affect, but do not substantially erode, a claimant's remaining occupational base are additional vocational adversities.

EXAMPLE: A claimant aged 49 years and 10 months who cannot do past relevant work (PRW) with a sedentary RFC, 12th grade education, and unskilled work will meet medical-vocational rule 201.12 at attainment of age 50. The claimant has reduced hearing ability. Because this limitation affects, but does not substantially erode, the sedentary occupational base, the adjudicator should consider whether it might be an additional vocational adversity.

- **Education:** When using a medical-vocational rule that expresses education as a continuum, the adjudicator may consider facts falling at the lower end of the continuum to be an additional vocational adversity.

EXAMPLE: An individual who is 54 years, 9 months of age with a light RFC, unskilled medium work experience and a 5th grade education will meet medical-vocational rule 202.01 at attainment of age 55. The rule requires limited or less education (11th grade or less). The adjudicator should consider whether education may be an additional vocational adversity if the individual has an education at the lower end of the rule continuum.

Illiteracy or inability to communicate in English is defined as the inability to read or write a simple message such as instructions or inventory lists. As such, illiteracy or inability to communicate in English can only be considered to be an additional vocational adversity when using a special medical-vocational profile, or if an individual is a few days to a few months of attaining advanced age, has a medium RFC and no past relevant work, or is a few days to a few months of “closely approaching retirement age,” has a medium RFC, cannot do past work, and has unskilled or no work experience (medical-vocational rules 203.10, 203.02, 203.01). In all other instances, illiteracy or inability to communicate in English will already be material to the allowance and cannot be used again as an additional adversity.

EXAMPLE: A claimant aged 44 years, 10 months with a sedentary RFC, unskilled medium work experience, who is illiterate or unable to communicate in English would meet medical-vocational rule 201.17 at attainment of age 45. Because the claimant must be illiterate or unable to communicate in English to meet this rule, the adjudicator could only consider whether the claimant had additional RFC or work experience-related adversities.

- **Work experience:** Because no past relevant work is more adverse than other work experience categories, the adjudicator considers whether no past relevant work might be an additional vocational adversity except when using a rule that an individual can meet only by having no past relevant work experience.

EXAMPLE: Medical-vocational rule 203.02 requires no past relevant work, so “no past relevant work” could not be considered an additional adversity when using this rule.

Medical-vocational rule 203.01 requires unskilled or no past relevant work experience. No past relevant work could be considered an additional adversity when using this rule because it is a more adverse vocational factor than unskilled past relevant work.

- **Isolated industry:** The adjudicator should consider whether work in an isolated industry might be an additional vocational adversity.

EXAMPLE: A claimant aged 54 years 11 months with a 10th grade education, a light RFC and past medium skilled work with no transferable skills meets medical-vocational 202.02 at attainment of age 55. If the claimant’s past relevant work was as a salmon fisherman, this could be considered a job in an isolated industry. Such work experience could be an additional adversity that could be considered in a borderline age issue.

3. Age

Refers to chronological age and the extent to which it affects a claimant’s ability to adjust to other work. See [DI 25015.005](#) for additional information on age as a vocational factor.

- A claimant reaches a particular age the day before his or her birthday. ([GN 00302.400](#)).
- There are three age categories and two age subcategories.
- The medical-vocational rules use the subcategory “younger individual age 45-49” in the sedentary medical-vocational table and “closely approaching retirement age” in the medium medical-vocational table.
 - Categories
 1. Younger individual - under age 50
 2. Closely approaching advanced age - age 50-54

3. Advanced age - age 55 or over
- Subcategories
 1. Younger individual age 45-49
 2. Closely approaching retirement age - age 60 or older

4. Arduous work

- Physical work requiring a high level of strength or endurance.
- May be arduous if it demands a great deal of stamina such as repetitive bending or lifting at a very fast pace.
- Generally, physical demands are classified as heavy.
- See [DI 25010.001B](#) for additional information on arduous work.

5. Atmospheric conditions (AC)

An environmental factor, rated in the SCO, meaning exposure to conditions such as fumes, noxious odors, dusts, mists, gases, and poor ventilation that affect the respiratory system, eyes, or the skin.

6. Balancing (Ba)

Maintaining body equilibrium to prevent falling when walking, standing, crouching, or running on narrow, slippery, or erratically moving surfaces; or maintaining body equilibrium when performing gymnastic feats.

7. Borderline age issue

A borderline age issue exists when a claimant is within a few days to a few months from the next higher age category and:

- Use of the higher age category results in a finding of “disabled,” and
- Use of the chronological age category results in a finding of “not disabled.”

See [DI 25015.005](#) for additional information about borderline age issues.

8. Carrying

Transporting an object; usually holding it in the hands, arms, or on the shoulder.

9. Climbing (Cl)

Ascending or descending ladders, stairs, scaffolding, ramps, poles, ropes, and the like, using the feet and legs or hands and arms.

10. Color vision (CV)

Ability to identify and distinguish colors.

11. Composite job

Work that has a blend of tasks from several different occupations. The main duties of a composite job will only be adequately described by multiple DOT occupations.

12. Constantly

Use of this term in the RFC or SCO means that the activity or condition occurs two-thirds or more of an eight hour day.

13. Crawling (Cw)

Moving about on the hands and knees or hands and feet.

14. Crouching (Co)

Bending the body downward and forward by bending the legs and spine.

15. Depth perception (DP)

Ability to judge distances and spatial relationships to see objects where and as they actually are in three dimensional vision.

16. DOT worker function codes

- The first three digits of a DOT code identify the occupational group.
- The middle three digits of the DOT code reflect the worker functions (see chart).
- The last three digits of the DOT code are the unique identifier of the occupation.

Worker functions – The Middle Three Codes
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Code	Data 4th Digit	Code	People 5th Digit	Code	Things 6th Digit
0	Synthesizing	0	Mentoring	0	Setting up
1	Coordinating	1	Negotiating	1	Precision Working
2	Analyzing	2	Instructing	2	Operating-Controlling
3	Compiling	3	Supervising	3	Driving-Operating
4	Computing	4	Diverting	4	Manipulating
5	Copying	5	Persuading	5	Tending
6	Comparing	6	Speaking-Signaling	6	Feeding-Off Bearing
		7	Serving	7	Handling
		8	Taking Instructions-Helping		

17. Education

Formal schooling or other training that contributes to a claimant's ability to meet vocational requirements (e.g., reasoning ability, communication skills, and arithmetical ability). See [DI 25015.010](#) for additional information on education as a vocational factor.

- Ability to communicate in English.
- For adjudicative purposes, education is classified into five categories:
 - a. Illiterate or Unable to Communicate in English

The inability to read English, or

The inability to write English, or

The inability to speak or understand English, or

Any combination of the above.

Regardless of formal education level, this category should be applied to claimants who cannot speak, understand, read, or write a simple message in English such as instructions or inventory lists.

b. Marginal Education

Formal schooling completed at a level of 6th grade or less.

c. Limited Education

Formal schooling completed at a level of 7th through 11th grade.

d. High School Education or Above

Formal schooling completed at a level of 12th grade and above. Generally, a GED certificate is considered in this category.

e. Recent Education that Provides for Direct Entry into Skilled Work

Recent education that allows a claimant to do a particular semi-skilled or skilled job.

18. Environmental conditions

Conditions that may exist in work environments such as extremes in temperature, humidity, noise, vibrations, fumes, odors, presence of toxic substances, dust, poor ventilation, or hazards.

19. Environmental limitation

An impairment-related inability to tolerate exposure to one or more environmental conditions in a workplace. See [DI 25020.015](#) for additional information on environmental limitations.

20. Exertional activity

One of the primary strength activities (i.e., sitting, standing, walking, lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling).

21. Exertional level

A work classification defining the functional requirements of work in terms of the range of the primary strength activities required (i.e., sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy).

Limits of Weights Lifted/Carried or Force Exerted by Strength Level			
Rating	Occasionally	Frequently	Constantly
Sedentary	* to 10	*	N/A
Light	* to 20	* to 10	*
Medium	20 to 50	10 to 25	* to 10
Heavy	50 to 100	25 to 50	10 to 20
Very Heavy	100+	50+	20+

*=Negligible Weight; N/A= Not applicable

Note: Lifting and carrying requirements are from Appendix A of the 4th Edition of the DOT and reflect how Department of Labor analysts classified jobs into a particular strength level.

Per 20 CFR [404.1567](#) and [416.967](#) , SSA uses the strength classifications that are in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

22. Exertional limitation

An impairment-related limitation that reduces the capacity to sit, stand, walk, lift, carry, push, or pull.

23. Exposure to weather (We)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning exposure to outside atmospheric conditions.

24. Exposure to electrical shock (ES)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning possible bodily injury from electrical shock.

25. Exposure to radiation (Ra)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning possible bodily injury from radiation.

26. Exposure to toxic, caustic chemicals (TC)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning possible bodily injury from toxic or caustic chemicals.

27. Extreme cold (Co)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning exposure to nonweather-related cold temperatures.

28. Extreme heat (Ho)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning exposure to nonweather-related hot temperatures.

29. Far acuity (FA)

Clarity of vision at 20 feet or more.

30. Feeling (Fe)

Perceiving attributes of objects and materials such as size, shape, temperature, or texture, by means of receptors in the skin, particularly those of the fingertips.

31. Field of vision (FV)

Observing an area that can be seen up and down or to the right or left while eyes are fixed on a given point.

32. Fingering (Fi)

Picking, pinching, or otherwise working with the fingers primarily (rather than with the whole hand or arm as in “Handling”).

33. Framework decision

A decision that is not “directed” by a particular rule in Appendix 2 (Medical-Vocational Guidelines) but uses the Appendix 2 rules as adjudicative guidance.

34. Frequently

Use of this term in the SCO or RFC means occurs one-third to two-thirds of an eight-hour workday.

35. Frequency of physical demands in the SCO

SCO Code	Frequency	Definition
N	Not Present	Activity or condition does not exist.
O	Occasionally	Activity or condition exists up to one-third of the time.
F	Frequently	Activity or condition exists from one-third to two-thirds of the time.
C	Constantly	Activity or condition exists two-thirds or more of the time.

36. Full range of work

All or substantially all of the unskilled occupations existing at an exertional level.

37. Handling (Ha)

Seizing, holding, grasping, turning, or otherwise working with the hand or hands. Fingers are involved only to the extent that they are an extension of the hand.

38. Hearing (He)

Perceiving the nature of sounds by ear.

39. Heavy work

- See [DI 25001.001B.21](#) for lifting and carrying requirements.
- Walking or standing for a significant part of the day.
- Generally includes the functional capacity to perform medium, light, and sedentary work.

40. Job

A position within an establishment with significant tasks.

- May be performed slightly differently at different work sites.
- **EXAMPLE:** A waitress at one restaurant may take orders and check to make sure everything is satisfactory. An assistant carries the food to the table. A waitress at another restaurant may be required to take the order and carry the food to the table.

41. Kneeling (Kn)

Bending the legs at the knees to come to rest on the knee or knees.

42. Lifetime commitment to a field of work

- Thirty years or more of work in one field.
- Does not have to be for the same employer.
- Work should be of a similar nature.
- See [DI 25010.001B.3](#) for additional information on lifetime commitment.

43. Lifting

Raising or lowering an object from one level to another. Includes upward pulling.

44. Light work

- See [DI 25001.001B.21](#) for lifting and carrying requirements.
- Usually requires walking or standing for approximately 6 hours of the day.
- Many unskilled light jobs are performed primarily in one location, with the ability to stand being more critical than the ability to walk.
- Even though the weight lifted may be only a negligible amount, an occupation is rated as light when it requires walking or standing to a significant degree, sitting most of the time while pushing or pulling arm or leg controls, or working at a production rate pace while constantly pushing or pulling materials even though the weight of the materials is negligible.
- Usually requires only occasional, rather than frequent stooping and no crouching.
- Usually involves grasping, holding and turning objects, but does not require use of the fingers for fine activities to the extent required in much sedentary work.

- Generally includes the functional capacity to perform sedentary work.

45. Material discrepancyA discrepancy that affects the ultimate decision of “disabled” or “not disabled”

46. Maximum sustained work capacity

The highest functional level a person can perform on a regular and continuing basis.

47. Medium work

- See [DI 25001.001B.21](#) for lifting and carrying requirements.
- Being able to frequently lift or carry objects weighing up to 25 pounds is often more critical than being able to lift up to 50 pounds at a time.
- Usually requires frequent stooping and crouching.
- Very few medium occupations in the national economy are performed primarily in a seated position.
- Only the ability to grasp, hold and turn objects is usually necessary as opposed to the finer activities in much sedentary work, which requires precision use of the fingers.
- Usually requires walking or standing for approximately 6 hours of the day.
- Generally includes the functional capacity to perform sedentary and light work.

48. Near acuity (NA)

Clarity of vision at 20 inches or less.

49. Never

An RFC rating that means not even once during an eight-hour day.

50. Noise level

A rating in the SCO that is based on the following coding system:

Code	Level	Illustrative Examples
1	Very quiet	Isolation booth for hearing test

Code	Level	Illustrative Examples
2	Quiet	Library, many private offices
3	Moderate	Department or grocery store
4	Loud	Large earth movers, heavy traffic
5	Very loud	Rock concert, jack hammer

51. No work experience

No relevant work experience. See [DI 25001.001B.60](#) for the definition of relevant work experience.

52. Nonexertional limitation

An impairment-caused limitation on a work activity that is not one of the seven strength factors (i.e. lifting, carrying, standing, walking, sitting, pushing, and pulling).

53. Not present

Use of this rating in the SCO means that the activity or condition does not exist.

54. Occasionally

Use of this term in the SCO or RFC means that the activity occurs at least once up to one-third of an eight-hour workday.

55. Occupation

- A group of jobs in many different worksites with a common set of tasks.
- Each occupation contains numerous related jobs.
- The DOT and SCO list occupations, not jobs.

56. Occupational base

The number of unskilled occupations that a claimant is capable of performing.

If an individual has transferable skills or direct entry into skilled work, he or she may have some skilled and semi-skilled occupations in his or her occupational base.

57. Occupational code number

- The first three digits of a code number identify the occupational group.
- The first digit is one of 9 broad categories.
- Categories are divided into 83 more specific divisions (the first 2 digits).
- The divisions are then divided into small groups (the first 3 digits). The DOT contains 564 groups.
- The middle 3 digits of the occupational code address the worker functions. See [DI 25001.001B.16](#) for a list of the middle 3 digit designations .
- The last 3 digits differentiate a particular occupation from all others. When a 6-digit code is [close space]

applicable to only one occupation, the final 3 digits are always 010.

- When there is more than one occupation with the same first 6 digits, the final 3 are usually assigned in multiples of 4, such as 010.014.018 and 022.

58. Other environmental conditions (Ot)

An environmental factor rating in the SCO used to capture uncategorized environmental conditions. May include:

- Demolishing parts of buildings to reach and combat fires and rescue persons endangered by fire and smoke;
- Mining ore or coal underground;
- Patrolling assigned beat to prevent crime or disturbance of peace and being subjected to bodily injury or death from law violators;
- Diving in the ocean and being subjected to the bends or other conditions associated with high water pressure and oxygen deprivation;
- Patrolling ski slopes prior to allowing public use and being exposed to danger of avalanches.

59. Other work

Work other than a claimant's past relevant work.

60. Past relevant work (PRW)

Work that:

- was performed within the relevant work period (See [DI 25001.001B.65](#) for the relevant work period chart), and
- was substantial gainful activity (SGA), and
- lasted long enough for the person to learn to learn the techniques; acquire the necessary information; and, develop the facilities needed for average performance of the job situation.

See [DI 25005.015](#) for additional information on PRW.

61. Pulling

Exerting force upon an object so that the object moves toward the force.

62. Pushing

Exerting force upon an object so that the object moves away from the force.

63. Range of work

Occupations existing at an exertional level (i.e. sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy).

64. Reaching

Extending the hands and arms in any direction.

65. Relevant work period

The period for which a claimant’s past work can be considered past relevant work (PRW).

The table below provides the most common scenarios of the relevant work period; i.e.,

TYPE OF CLAIM	RELEVANT PERIOD
Title II Disability Insurance Benefits (DIB) - Date Last Insured (DLI) in the future	Within the 15 years before adjudication*
Title II DIB - DLI in the past	Within the 15 years before DLI
Title II Widow or Widower, or Surviving Divorced Spouse (DWB) Prescribed Period	Within the 15 years before adjudication *

TYPE OF CLAIM	RELEVANT PERIOD
(PP) not expired	
Title II DWB – PP expired	Within the 15 years before expiration of the PP
Title II or Title XVI Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) projected to a future date.	Within the 15 years before the projected date is reached
Title II Full Retirement Age (FRA) in the past	Within the 15 years before FRA
Title II Childhood Disability Beneficiaries (CDB) – Initial claim filed before age 22	Within the 15 years before adjudication*
Title II CDB – Initial claim filed after age 22, no relevant work after age 22	Within the 15 years before age 22
Title II CDB – Reentitlement Claim, 7 year period applies and ended in the past	Within the 15 years before the end of the reentitlement period
Title II CDB – Reentitlement Claim, 7 year period applies and has not yet ended, or 7 year period does not apply	Within the 15 years before adjudication*
Title XVI Adult	Within the 15 years before adjudication*
Title II or Title XVI Continuing Disability Review (CDR)	Within the 15 years before CDR adjudication**
Appeal of Title II or Title XVI CDR medical cessation	Within the 15 years prior to the initial CDR medical cessation determination**
Any type of claim – closed period of disability ***	Within the 15 years before the end of the closed period

* Indicates the date we adjudicate the claim at the initial, reconsideration, administrative law judge levels or for Appeals Council decisions. (See 20 CFR [404.1565](#) and [416.965](#)) The date of adjudication is not frozen at the initial determination but is the date of determination or decision at any level of review.

** [DI 28005.015B.7.](#) provides that in CDR cases we will not count work performed during the current period of disability as PRW or as work experience. However, SGA done during a current period of disability may change an individual’s vocational outlook for the purposes of applying collateral estoppel to a

new claim. See EM-01204 and [DI 27515.001](#) for additional information on potential adoption cases involving work activity.

*** A closed period of disability is one in which the claimant was unable to engage in substantial gainful activity for a continuous period of at least 12 months, but by the time the determination or decision is made, improvement has occurred and the claimant is no longer disabled.

66. Remaining occupational base

The occupations that a claimant is capable of adjusting to considering his or her RFC, age, education, and past work experience.

67. Residual functional capacity (RFC)

An administrative assessment of a claimant's maximum remaining capacity for work on a sustained basis.

68. Restriction

A restriction is what a claimant should not do because of an impairment-related risk to self or others or because it would be medically inadvisable. A restriction can be exertional or non-exertional.

69. Sedentary work

- See [DI 25001.001B.21](#) for lifting and carrying requirements.
- Periods of standing or walking should generally total no more than about two hours and sitting should generally total approximately six hours of an eight-hour workday.

70. Semi-skilled work

Work that requires some skills but does not require complex duties.

- Generally Specific Vocational Preparation (SVP) of 3 or 4 as rated in the SCO.
- See [DI 25001.001B.78](#) for the definition of SVP.

71. Severe medically determinable impairment (MDI)

An MDI that significantly limits a claimant's physical or mental ability to perform one or more basic work activities needed to do most jobs. See [DI 22001.015](#).

72. Significant erosion

A considerable reduction in the available occupations at a particular exertional level.

Generally, use a lower exertional rule as a framework for a decision.

73. Sitting:

Remaining in a seated position.

74. Skill

For disability program purposes is:

- Experience and demonstrated proficiency with work activities in particular tasks or jobs.
- Can only be gained through doing past relevant skilled or semi-skilled work. Cannot be gained from unskilled work.
- Cannot be gained through volunteer work or hobbies.
- Cannot be gained through education.

75. Skill level

A work classification that divides occupations into unskilled, semi-skilled, or skilled work.

76. Skilled work

- Requires high levels of judgment and adaptability.
- Involves setting realistic goals or making plans independently.
- Requires understanding, carrying out, remembering complex instructions.
- Often encompasses abstract ideas and problem solving.
- Generally SVP of 5-9 as rated in the SCO.
- See [DI 25001.001B.78](#) for the definition of SVP.

77. Slight erosion

A minimal impact in the available occupations at an exertional level.

Do not use a lower level exertional rule as a framework for a decision.

78. Special medical-vocational profiles

Unfavorable combinations of vocational factors that should be considered before consulting the medical vocational rules.

- Find an individual who cannot do past relevant work and meets a profile unable to adjust to other work.
- See [DI 25010.001](#) for a listing of the profiles.

79. Specific vocational preparation (SVP)

The amount of time required by a typical worker to:

- Learn the techniques,
- Acquire the information, and
- Develop the facility needed for average performance of a job.

An individual may acquire SVP in a school, military, institutional or vocational environment through such settings as:

- Vocational training,
- Apprenticeship training,
- In plant training,
- On-the-job training,
- Essential experience in other jobs.

A 4-year college degree is equal to 2 years of SVP. Each year of graduate school is equal to 1 year of SVP.

If an individual has past work with a high SVP level, it may be appropriate to consider the length of the work, as well as the claimant's education when determining if work was done long enough to be relevant.

EXAMPLE: An RN has an SVP of 7 which would mean that this job is generally learned in about 2-4 years. If the nurse has a 4 year college degree, which counts for 2 years of SVP, and 2 years of nursing experience, the adjudicator would

determine that the claimant did the job long enough to learn it unless there was evidence to the contrary.

Level	Time
1	Short demonstration only.
2	Anything beyond short demonstration up to and including 1 month.
3	Over 1 month up to and including 3 months.
4	Over 3 months up to and including 6 months.
5	Over 6 months up to and including 1 year.
6	Over 1 year up to and including 2 years.
7	Over 2 years up to and including 4 years.
8	Over 4 years up to and including 10 years.
9	Over 10 years.

80. Standing

Remaining on one's feet in an upright position at a workstation without moving about.

81. Stooping (St)

Bending the body downward and forward by bending the spine at the waist.

82. Strength factors of work

- Lifting, carrying, standing, walking, sitting, pushing, and pulling.
- This factor is defined by one of five levels: Sedentary, Light, Medium, Heavy, and Very Heavy. Most jobs require workers to expend energy to some extent. The amount can be affected by the worker's body position and the frequency of the repetition of the task.
- A worker in an awkward crouching position may experience as much difficulty exerting five pounds of force as when exerting thirty pounds at waist height while standing.
- A worker who continuously lifts, pushes or pulls 15-pound objects or carries them over long distances may exert as much physical effort as when lifting, pushing, pulling or carrying 30-pound objects over short distances on a frequent basis.

- In determining strength level, job analysts review body position, weight/force, and controls (hand/arm and foot/leg).

83. Substantially all activities

Nearly all of the activities required in an exertional range of work.

84. Substantial gainful activity (SGA)

The performance of significant physical or mental activities in work for pay or profit or in work of a type generally performed for pay or profit. Work may be substantial even if it is performed on a seasonal or part-time basis, or even if the individual does less, is paid less, or has less responsibility than in previous work.

- Although the Field Office has jurisdiction to determine if work since onset is SGA, the adjudicator must determine whether past work was at SGA level in order to determine if it was relevant.
- If the claimant has not worked for a full year at a job, it is not appropriate to apply the yearly SGA limit to his or her earnings.
- See [DI 10501.015](#) for SGA for blind employees. See the table below for countable earnings for nonblind employees.

Monthly SGA CHART for Nonblind Employees

For mos./ Yrs.	1 M o.	2 M os.	3 M os.	4 M os.	5 M os.	6 M os.	7 M os.	8 M os.	9 M os.	10 Mos .	11 Mos .	12 Mos .
1979	\$2 80	\$5 60	\$8 40	\$1 12 0	\$1 40 0	\$1 68 0	\$1 96 0	\$2 24 0	\$2 52 0	\$28 00	\$30 80	\$33 60
1980 - 1989	\$3 00	\$6 00	\$9 00	\$1 20 0	\$1 50 0	\$1 80 0	\$2 10 0	\$2 40 0	\$2 70 0	\$30 00	\$33 00	\$36 00
1/90- 6/99	\$5 00	\$1 00 0	\$1 50 0	\$2 00 0	\$2 50 0	\$3 00 0	\$3 50 0	\$4 00 0	\$4 50 0	\$50 00	\$55 00	\$60 00
7/99- 12/00	\$7 00	\$1 40	\$2 10	\$2 80	\$3 50	\$4 20	\$4 90	\$5 60	\$6 30	\$70 00	\$77 00	\$84 00

For mos./ Yrs.	1 M o.	2 M os.	3 M os.	4 M os.	5 M os.	6 M os.	7 M os.	8 M os.	9 M os.	10 Mos .	11 Mos .	12 Mos .
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2001	\$7 40	\$1 48 0	\$2 22 0	\$2 96 0	\$3 70 0	\$4 44 0	\$5 18 0	\$5 92 0	\$6 66 0	\$74 00	\$81 40	\$88 80
2002	\$7 80	\$1 56 0	\$2 34 0	\$3 12 0	\$3 90 0	\$4 68 0	\$5 46 0	\$6 24 0	\$7 02 0	\$78 00	\$85 80	\$93 60
2003	\$8 00	\$1 60 0	\$2 40 0	\$3 20 0	\$4 00 0	\$4 80 0	\$5 60 0	\$6 40 0	\$7 20 0	\$80 00	\$88 00	\$96 00
2004	\$8 10	\$1 62 0	\$2 43 0	\$3 24 0	\$4 05 0	\$4 86 0	\$5 67 0	\$6 48 0	\$7 29 0	\$81 00	\$89 10	\$97 20
2005	\$8 30	\$1 66 0	\$2 49 0	\$3 32 0	\$4 15 0	\$4 98 0	\$5 81 0	\$6 64 0	\$7 47 0	\$83 00	\$91 30	\$99 60
2006	\$8 60	\$1 72 0	\$2 58 0	\$3 44 0	\$4 30 0	\$5 16 0	\$6 02 0	\$6 88 0	\$7 74 0	\$86 00	\$94 60	\$10, 320
2007	\$9 00	\$1 80 0	\$2 70 0	\$3 60 0	\$4 50 0	\$5 40 0	\$6 30 0	\$7 20 0	\$8 10 0	\$90 00	\$99 00	\$10, 800
2008	\$9 40	\$1 88 0	\$2 82 0	\$3 76 0	\$4 70 0	\$5 64 0	\$6 58 0	\$7 52 0	\$8 46 0	\$94 00	\$10, 340	\$11, 280
2009	\$9 80	\$1 96 0	\$2 94 0	\$3 92 0	\$4 90 0	\$5 88 0	\$6 86 0	\$7 84 0	\$8 82 0	\$98 00	\$10, 780	\$11, 760
2010	\$1 00 0	\$2 00 0	\$3 00 0	\$4 00 0	\$5 00 0	\$6 00 0	\$7 00 0	\$8 00 0	\$9 00 0	\$10, 000	\$11, 000	\$12, 000
2011	\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8	\$9	\$10,	\$11,	\$12,

For mos./ Yrs.	1 M o.	2 M os.	3 M os.	4 M os.	5 M os.	6 M os.	7 M os.	8 M os.	9 M os.	10 Mos .	11 Mos .	12 Mos .
	00 0	000	000	000								
2012	\$1 01 0	\$2 02 0	\$3 03 0	\$4 04 0	\$5 05 0	\$6 06 0	\$7 07 0	\$8 08 0	\$9 09 0	\$10, 100	\$11, 110	\$12, 120

85. Training

An instructional program designed to prepare a person (or further enhance his or her ability) for performing a specific type or field of work.

86. Transferability

Applying work skills that a claimant has demonstrated in past relevant skilled or semi-skilled work to meet the requirements of other skilled or semi-skilled work. See [DI 25015.015](#) for a detailed discussion.

87. Transferable skills

Skills obtained from performing past relevant skilled or semi-skilled work that can be applied to meet the requirements of other skilled or semiskilled work that falls within the claimant's RFC.

88. Unskilled work

Work that requires little or no judgment to do simple duties that can be learned on the job in a short period of time (i.e., 30 days or less).

- Generally SVP of 1 or 2 as rated in the SCO.
- See [DI 25001.001B.78](#) for the definition of SVP.

89. Very heavy work

- See [DI 25001.001B.21](#) for lifting and carrying requirements.
- Walking or standing for a significant amount of the day.

- Generally includes the functional capacity to perform heavy, medium, light, and sedentary work.

90. Vibration (Vi)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning exposure to a shaking object or surface.

91. Vocational specialist/consultant (VS/VC)

A person who specializes in consideration of vocational factors and who has knowledge of how those factors apply to a specific medical-vocational determination.

92. Vocational factors

RFC, age, education, and PRW.

93. Walking

Moving about on foot.

94. Wet or Humid (Hu)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning contact with water or other liquids or exposure to nonweather-related humid conditions.

95. Work experience

The experience acquired from a claimant's PRW.

96. Working in high, exposed places (HE)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning exposure to possible bodily injury from falling.

97. Working with explosives (Ex)

An environmental factor rated in the SCO meaning possible injury from explosives.

