

Specialty Examination – RESPIRATORY

In instances when a Specialty Examination is requested, the Contractor shall provide the DDDS and its DDDS claimants with the following, in addition to, the Adult Physical Disability Evaluation and Report Guidelines.

The examination should concentrate on the areas affected by the DDDS claimant's illness or impairment. Provide specific information and be as descriptive as possible.

(1) Respiratory Examination.

- (a) Current Medical History. Describe and discuss the DDDS claimant's:
 - i. Current symptom(s), especially dyspnea (at rest or only with exertion)
 - (A) Exertional capacity should be addressed in both situations (i.e. how far can the DDDS claimant walk before resting)
 - (B) Presence of any associated symptoms (i.e. palpitations, wheezing, cough, sputum production, chest discomfort, symptoms of hyperventilation, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, or orthopnea)
 - ii. Description of severe respiratory attack(s) or persistent pulmonary infection
 - iii. History of heart disease (if applicable)
- (b) Social History. Report any employment history relevant to the disease (i.e. exposure to chemicals, irritants, etc., that produced respiratory symptoms)
- (c) Vital signs.
 - i. Pulse rate and rhythm
 - ii. Respiratory rate, and
 - (A) Whether labored or unlabored
 - (B) If there is use of accessory muscles or respiration
- (d) Lungs. Describe and discuss:
 - i. Occurrence of cough, labored breathing, audible wheezing, pallor cyanosis, hoarseness, clubbing of fingers, chest wall deformity, curvature of the spine, etc.
 - ii. Whether there is prolongation of the exhalatory phase of respiration
 - iii. Breath sounds (that is, air exchange), and presence or absence of adventitious sounds (i.e. rhonchi or rales)
 - iv. Diaphragmatic motion
- (e) Heart and Vascular. Describe and discuss:
 - i. Heart sounds
 - ii. Presence of any lifts, heaves, or thrills
 - iii. Heart size
 - iv. Point of maximal impact of cardiac apex
 - v. Presence of any murmurs, rubs, or gallops
 - vi. Presence and location of any bruits
 - vii. Distention of neck veins
 - viii. Presence, type, and extent of any peripheral edema and any associated skin discoloration or ulceration
- (f) Additional Information – Pulmonary Function Tests
 - i. Spirometry and DLCO tracings must be provided when these tests have been performed
 - ii. Reported findings for pulmonary function tests must meet the requirements of Section 3.00E of the List of Impairments (see <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/3.00-Respiratory-Adult.htm>)
 - iii. Statement should be made regarding the DDDS claimant's ability to understand the directions, as well as, the effort and cooperation in performing the pulmonary function test