

Department of Social and Health Services

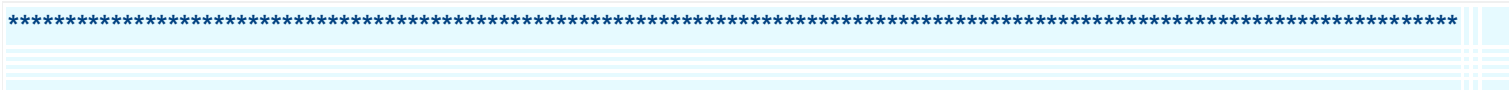
Community Services Division

Social Services Manual

Revision: # 142
Category: **Disability Determination – Acceptable Medical Evidence**
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Summary

Revised and updated this page to streamline with Acceptable Medical Source (AMS) rule changes to WAC 388-449-0010- *What evidence do we consider to determine disability?*



Disability Determinations ~~and Other~~ Acceptable Medical Evidence

~~Revised Created on: March 23, 2018-~~

~~Oct 21 2014~~

[WAC 388-449-0010](#) What evidence do we consider to determine disability?

[WAC 388-449-0015](#) What medical evidence do I need to provide?

Clarifying Information- WAC 388-449-0010

1. A diagnosis of a ~~medically determinable~~ disabling impairment must be ~~from established by~~ an “acceptable medical source” as defined in WAC 388-449-0010. This diagnosis must be supported by means report or chart notes objective medical evidence described in WAC 388-449-0015 and be based on an examination from a physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist within ~~the last 5 years~~ of the application date.
 2. After a diagnosis ~~of a potentially disabling impairment has been~~ established, we can use medical evidence from “treating medical sources” as providers (PAC’s and ARNP) for current medical evidence.
 3. ~~Once we have an impairment established by a doctor, diagnosis and current medical evidence, then we may include “other evidence”, at our discretion, use documentation of how an impairment limits functioning from other sources. Other sources include, but as supporting documentation. are not limited to:~~
 4. ~~Chiropractors~~
 5. ~~Physical therapists~~
 6. ~~Naturopaths~~
 7. ~~Therapists~~
 8. ~~Social workers~~
 9. ~~Care givers~~
 10. ~~Employers~~
 11. ~~Family member~~
 12. 3.
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Clarifying Information- -WAC 388-449-0015

1. Statements regarding how the impairment(s) limit a client ~~person~~’s functioning must be consistent with objective medical evidence.
2. ~~When determining if a medically determinable condition exists, we~~ only use primary ~~diagnoses~~ is of ~~conditions~~ that ~~will~~ produce potentially disabling symptoms or impairments.
 1. ~~These~~ symptoms can ~~either~~ be the direct result of the disease or injury, or ~~as~~ a result of treatment for the condition.
 1. Some ~~e~~Examples of diagnoses ~~is~~ that don’t qualify as a diagnosis of a potentially disabling condition ~~impairment~~ are:
 1. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD);
 1. 2., and other learning disorders, ~~are not considered disabling conditions for adults by SSA and cannot be used as a disabling condition for ABD.;~~
 2. 3. Hypertension is typically asymptomatic and therefore is expected produce potentially disabling symptoms.;
 4. Hepatitis;

1. Hepatitis is ~~also~~ typically asymptomatic or produces mild symptoms. ~~I~~if the disease has progressed, interferon treatment could result in significant fatigue, but ~~m~~ay not meet the duration requirement for disability.

~~5.~~ Bereavement ~~or grief is not acceptable diagnosis.~~

~~2.~~—While the severity may be temporarily disabling, it is not reasonable to expect the condition to last for 12 months or more.

1.

~~3.~~ Pain cannot be used as a diagnosis. ~~There must be a medically determinable condition (diagnosis of an injury or disease).~~

~~3.4.~~ Once a ~~the~~ diagnosis has been established by an “acceptable medical source,” then written evidence from ~~other~~ treating professionals or non-medical sources can be used to determine how the impairment affects the client~~person~~’s ability to function.

EXAMPLE: Milly has a diagnosis of degenerative disc disease from a physician. Milly’s~~Her~~ MRI indicates moderate stenosis. Milly provides a letter from thei~~r~~ daughter describing how ~~her mother~~Milly complains of a tingling sensation in thei~~r~~ hands, and that Milly~~she~~ has recently ~~seen her mother~~ dropped objects that weigh more than 10 lbs. Since Milly has a medically determinable impairment~~condition~~ that could result in the symptoms described, the~~her~~ daughter’s statements can be used to help determine the severity of Milly’s ~~her~~ impairments and ~~her exertional~~ level of exertion.

EXAMPLE: Bart states that pain in thei~~r~~ his knee keeps the~~m~~him from working. The physician who examined Bar~~him~~ found mild edema, but no crepitus, or other abnormal findings, ~~and~~ Bart’s gait and station were noted within normal limits (WNL). Bart also provided a statement from a physician’s assistant (PAC) ~~that he had seen previously which that~~ stated Bart was limited to sedentary work due to knee pain. Since Bart does not have a medically determinable impairment~~condition~~, the statement from the PAC ~~can’t~~ be used ~~to~~ when making a determination of disability.