

Resource List for Disability Panel
Massachusetts ME/CFS & FM Association, Sunday Conversations
February 20, 2022

Applying for Social Security Disability -

Mass. ME/CFS & FM Disability Handbook – *How to Obtain Social Security Disability Benefits if You Have ME/CFS – With Additional Information if You Have Fibromyalgia*

<https://www.massmecfs.org/images/pdf/handbook/Disability%20Handbook-How%20to%20Apply.pdf>

Mass. ME/CFS Disability articles on Social Security Disability

<https://www.massmecfs.org/social-security-disability>

Mass. ME/CFS Primer for Applying for Social Security Disability

<https://www.massmecfs.org/disability-links/37-disability-benefits-under-social-security>

The Sleepy Girl Guide to Social Security Disability – An extraordinary Guide that covers the many questions and aspects of applying for Social Security Disability and other types of disability and income support. A must go-to resource.

<https://howtogeton.wordpress.com/social-security-disability/>

Social Security Disability Documents for ME/CFS:

In 2014 the Social Security Administration issued a critical new Ruling: SSR-14-1p Titles II and XVI: Evaluating Claims Involving Chronic Fatigue Syndrome - You can obtain a copy of the Ruling at:

https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/rulings/di/01/SSR2014-01-di-01.html.

“Providing Medical Evidence for Individuals with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)”

<https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/documents/64-063.pdf> This document provides an important Guide specifically to doctors for documenting

your illness. Your doctor should submit a completed copy to Social Security. Take a copy of this form to your doctor. The form will also assist your doctor(s) in writing the Disability Medical Report

2016 SSR 16-3p Social Security Ruling “Evaluation of Symptoms in Disability Claims” https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/rulings/di/01/SSR2016-03-di-01.html

This Ruling relates to the evaluation of symptoms in ME-CFS and fibromyalgia claims and applies to all illnesses requiring symptom evaluation.

Diagnostic Criteria for ME/CFS – In most cases where there is a diagnosable illness, in order to obtain Social Security Disability benefits the individual must be diagnosed with a “medically-determinable impairment.” In the Social Security CFS Ruling (see below), ME/CFS is diagnosed by the 1994 CDC CFS Criteria and additionally with the 2003 Canadian Criteria and the 2011 ME International Consensus Criteria. As yet the 2015 IOM Criteria is not mentioned.

2003 Canadian ME/CFS Criteria

http://www.investinme.org/Documents/PDFdocuments/Canadian_ME_Overview_A4.pdf

2011 ME International Consensus Criteria -

<https://dxrevisionwatch.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/international-me-consensus-criteria.pdf>

1994 CDC CFS Criteria

<https://www.massmecfs.org/images/pdf/handbook/Disability%20Handbook-Appendix%20II.pdf>

2015 IOM ME/CFS Criteria <https://www.cdc.gov/me-cfs/healthcare-providers/diagnosis/iom-2015-diagnostic-criteria.html>

The U.S. ME/CFS Clinical Coalition provides an informational hand-out to doctors on the illness.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SG7hlJTCSDrDHqvioPMq-cX-rgRKXjfk/view>

Guidance for Documenting Fibromyalgia to Social Security:

In 2012 the Social Security Administration issued a Policy Interpretation Ruling SSR 12-2p: Titles II and XVI: Evaluation of Fibromyalgia

https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/rulings/di/01/SSR2012-02-di-01.html

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Guidances for Documenting Long-Covid to Social Security

Long-covid Guidance - On 5/16/21 the Social Security Admin. Issued an *Emergency Message – Evaluating Cases with Corona Virus Disease 2019*. The Guidance may be found at

<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/reference.nsf/links/04162021020344PM>

HHS.gov - Guidance on Long Covid as a Disability Under the ADA, Section 504 and Section 1557 <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/civil-rights-covid19/guidance-long-covid-disability/index.html>

Social Security Disability and SSI for Post-Covid Syndrome

<https://www.disabilitysecrets.com/resources/social-security-disability-and-ssi-for-post-covid-syndrome.html>

Chronic Lyme Disease - It appears there is no specific Social Security Guidance for Chronic Lyme, but there are a number of organizations devoted to chronic Lyme that have issued their own guidance to patients as how to obtain benefits including:

<https://www.ilads.org/patient-care/how-to-qualify-for-social-security-disability-benefits-with-lyme-disease/>

<https://www.disabilitysecrets.com/social-security-disability-lyme-disease.html>