

Medical evidence to support your review for Disability Support Pension

You need to provide current medical evidence from your treating health professionals to support the review of your medical eligibility for Disability Support Pension. We need this information to help us understand how your medical conditions affect you, and to make sure we correctly assess your eligibility.

We are not responsible for obtaining this information on your behalf. However, we may contact your treating health professionals to confirm or clarify information you provide about your medical conditions.

Information we need to assess your eligibility

You must provide current medical evidence about each of your medical conditions that impact your ability to work. These requirements are explained in more detail below.

You need to provide suitable medical evidence within 21 days of being notified of this review or as soon as possible afterwards. If you do not provide evidence within 21 days your payments may be stopped.

Tell us if you cannot provide evidence within that time, or if you are having difficulty obtaining current medical evidence.

If you do not provide sufficient current medical evidence we may take longer to finalise your review, or payments may be stopped.

What is medical evidence?

Medical evidence includes documents written by a registered medical practitioner (such as your treating doctor) and other registered health or allied health professionals. This evidence should support information about the functional impacts and level of impairment that result from your condition.

Statements about your condition written by you or your nominee are taken into account, but are not considered medical evidence. This applies to information provided by a person who is not a registered health professional, such as a teacher.

Examples of medical evidence you should provide:

- medical history reports/print outs
- specialist medical reports, including outcomes of specialist referrals by your treating doctor
- allied health professional reports, such as physiotherapy or audiology reports
- psychologist reports, including IQ testing reports
- medical imaging reports
- compensation and rehabilitation reports
- physical examination reports
- hospital/outpatient records or discharge summaries including operations you have had.

Medical evidence should be as current as possible. Older evidence (such as reports or records more than 2 years old) will generally be considered less relevant. Talk to your treating health professional if you are not sure whether the medical evidence you have reflects your current circumstances.

Information we need about your medical conditions

We need current information about the diagnosis, treatment, symptoms, functional impact and prognosis of each of the medical condition(s) that impact your ability to work. This is explained in more detail below:

Diagnosis

- The formal diagnosis of the medical conditions that impact your ability to function.
- When each medical condition was diagnosed.
- The name, qualification and contact details of the medical professional who made the diagnosis.

Treatment and care

- The type of treatment that has been undertaken in the past.
- The current treatment(s) you are undertaking.
- Planned or future treatment, including whether you are on a waiting list.
- If you require specific care because of your condition, including nursing home level or palliative care.

Symptoms and functional impact

- When the symptoms of each medical condition started (date of onset).
- Current symptoms of your conditions (persisting despite treatment, aids, equipment or assistive technology).
- The severity, frequency and duration of your symptoms.
- How your conditions and treatment impact on your ability to function in day-to-day life including at work.

Prognosis

- The length of time the condition is likely to impact your ability to function.
- Whether the condition is likely to improve, remain the same or get progressively worse.
- Whether your medical condition is likely to significantly affect your life expectancy.

Specific medical evidence required for some medical conditions

We need specific medical evidence for some medical conditions. This includes:

- **ear conditions affecting hearing or balance:** the diagnosis must be supported by a report from your audiologist or ear, nose and throat specialist.
- **eye conditions affecting vision:** the diagnosis must be supported by a report from your ophthalmologist.
- **mental health conditions (such as depression, schizophrenia):** your doctor's diagnosis must be supported by a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist assessment.
- **intellectual impairment:** we need an assessment of intellectual function and assessment of adaptive behaviour from your psychologist, or a report from your special school which includes these psychologist assessments. Evidence you provide must include information supported by a psychologist about your IQ score, or your ability to undergo IQ testing.

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp or call us on **132 717**.