**How to Qualify For Social Security Disability Benefits With Lyme Disease**

A common bacterial disease that is spread through the bite of a deer tick, Lyme Disease, can affect its victims very differently. Sometimes the symptoms are so severe that it [becomes disabling.](https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/blog/how-to-know-if-condition-is-disabling-enough) If you are unable to work because of Lyme Disease, you may qualify for Social Security Disability benefits.

To qualify for disability benefits from the Social Security Administration [(SSA),](https://www.ssa.gov/) you must be totally disabled, and your disability must be expected to last at least a year or result in your death. The SSA uses a medical guide, which is called the **Blue Book**, to determine if you are disabled. The Blue Book has listings for a variety of ailments and conditions, but there isn’t a specific listing for Lyme Disease.

To qualify using the criteria in the medical guide, you will need to meet the specific details for a listing that is in the Blue Book. Sometimes Lyme Disease affects organs or other systems of the body. If that is the case, you must meet the criteria for a listing that applies to your specific medical condition.

Lyme Disease is usually diagnosed through symptoms, including the potential for exposure and a red bulls-eye rash. If the patient exhibits other symptoms, then blood tests to measure antibodies are conducted to confirm the diagnosis.

**Meeting The Blue Book Criteria**

Often, Lyme Disease causes debilitating joint and muscle pain. If that is the case, you might meet the criteria under [Section 1.00](https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/1.00-Musculoskeletal-Adult.htm) for the Adult Musculoskeletal System.

 [Section 1.02](https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/1.00-Musculoskeletal-Adult.htm#1_02) lists the criteria for approval for major dysfunction of a joint for any reason.

 To be approved using Section 1.02 the condition must be:

* Characterized by a gross anatomical deformity and chronic joint pain and stiffness with sign of limitation of motion and other abnormal motion of the affected joint, and medical tests showing bony destruction, narrowing, or ankylosis of the defected joint

**OR**

* Involvement of one or more peripheral joint in each upper extremity resulting in the inability to effectively perform fine or gross movements

You may be able to qualify using Section [Listing 14.09,](https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/14.00-Immune-Adult.htm#14_09) which is for inflammatory arthritis.

 Sometimes Lyme Disease leads to neurological issues, and if that is the case, you might meet the criteria using the Blue Book listing for neurological disorders, which is Section 11.00.

Some individuals suffer from cardiac problems because of the Lyme Disease. If that is the case, you may be approved using Section 4.00, which covers disorders of the cardiovascular system.

**Filing for Social Security Disability Benefits**

If your Lyme Disease has had a severe impact on your life and has left you unable to work, you should apply for disability benefits from the SSA. You can apply for disability benefits online at the [SSA’s website](https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability.html) or by calling 1-800-772-1213 and speaking with a representative. The process is dependent on [medical evidence](https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/social-security-disability-medical-sources) and supporting documentation, so make sure you gather up all your files so they can be reviewed.

**Resources**

* <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/blog/how-to-know-if-condition-is-disabling-enough>
* <https://www.ssa.gov/>
* <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/1.00-Musculoskeletal-Adult.htm>
* <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/1.00-Musculoskeletal-Adult.htm#1_02>
* <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/14.00-Immune-Adult.htm#14_09>
* <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability.html>
* <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/social-security-disability-medical-sources>