

**DISABILITY EVALUATION CHECKLIST  
FOR PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (11.09)**  
*[with Blue Book sections indicated]*

*Use this checklist to facilitate doctor-patient discussion  
of MS-specific disability criteria and the disability application process*

- ◆ **Disorganization of motor function (11.04B and 11.00C)**—significant and persistent disorganization of motor function in two extremities, resulting in sustained disturbance of gross and dexterous movement, or gait and station

**OR**

- ◆ **Visual impairment (2.02; 2.03; 2.04)**
  - ◆ **Visual acuity (2.02)**—the remaining visual acuity for distance of the better eye with best correction based on the Snellen test chart measurement
  - ◆ **Field of vision (2.03)**—impairment of peripheral vision
  - ◆ **Visual efficiency (2.04)**—the visual efficiency of the better eye after best correction is 20 percent or less

**OR**

- ◆ **Mental impairment (12.02)**—requires the following:
  - ◆ Documentation of medically determinable impairment(s);
  - ◆ Consideration of the degree of limitation such impairment(s) may impose on individual's ability to work;
  - ◆ Consideration of whether these limitations have lasted or are expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

The requisite level of severity is met with the following findings:

- A. Demonstration of a loss of specific cognitive abilities and the medically documented persistence of ***at least on one*** of the following:
  - ◆ Disorientation to time and place
  - ◆ Memory impairment—short-, intermediate-, or long-term

- ◆ Perceptual or thinking disturbances
- ◆ Change in personality
- ◆ Disturbance in mood
- ◆ Emotional lability
- ◆ Loss of measured intellectual ability (*at least 15 I.Q points*) from premorbid levels or overall impairment index clearly within severely impaired range

**AND**

- B. Resulting *in at least two* of the following:
- ◆ Marked restriction of activities of daily living
  - ◆ Marked difficulties in maintaining social functioning
  - ◆ Marked difficulties in maintaining concentration, persistence, or pace
  - ◆ Repeated episodes of decompensation

**OR**

- ◆ **Significant, reproducible fatigue of motor function (11.09)**—requires the following:
  - ◆ Documentation of diagnosis of multiple sclerosis
  - ◆ A description of fatigue considered to be characteristic of multiple sclerosis (e.g., “*A subjective lack of physical and/or mental energy that is perceived by the individual or caregiver to interfere with usual and desired activities*”<sup>1</sup>)
  - ◆ Evidence that the system has actually become fatigued (taking into account the degree of exercise and the severity of the resulting muscle weakness)

<sup>1</sup>Multiple Sclerosis Council for Clinical Practice Guidelines (1998). *Fatigue and Multiple Sclerosis*. Paralyzed Veterans of America.