

## How to Qualify for Disability With Breast Cancer

If you have been diagnosed with breast cancer, your oncologist will come up with a treatment plan. Even if your cancer is not advanced enough to keep you from working, odds are the side effects from the treatments will keep you sidelined for a while. You might be eligible to receive Social Security disability benefits administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) if you will be out of work for at least 12 months. Monthly disability benefits can help you cover the cost of living while you are working on recovering.

### Qualifying Via the Blue Book

The SSA uses a medical guide, which is called the [Blue Book](#). Using the Blue Book, there are five ways that you could qualify for disability with breast cancer. Breast cancer is included with other cancers in [Section 13.00](#) of the Blue Book, which covers Malignant Neoplastic Diseases. To qualify with breast cancer, you must provide medical records that show one of the following:

- You have small-cell carcinoma, also known as oat cell carcinoma.
- After anti-cancer therapy, your carcinoma has returned.
- An advanced form of breast cancer that has extended to the skin, internal mammary nodes, or chest.
- A carcinoma that started in the cells of the skin or tissue lining organs that has spread either below or above the collar bone, has spread to 10 or more nearby nodes, or spread to distant chest regions.

Breast cancer could qualify for a [Compassionate Allowance](#), which is a faster approval, if it meets one of these three conditions:

- Your breast cancer is inoperable.
- Your breast cancer has metastasized, which means it spread to distant organs.
- Your breast cancer has returned despite you having undergone cancer treatment, such as chemotherapy or radiation.

### Possible Qualification With Early Breast Cancer

If you are diagnosed with early breast cancer, which is treatable, you still might qualify for disability benefits. You must prove that you will be unable to work for at least 12 months. This can be done by your physician making a written statement that indicates your inability to work for a year. Your inability to work might be because of undergoing treatments, which often cause fatigue, nausea, weakness, and other symptoms. Many patients receive disability while undergoing treatment, and then they return to work after they make a recovery.

### Applying For Disability Benefits With Breast Cancer

If you have been diagnosed with breast cancer and are unable to work, you should apply for disability benefits from the SSA. The key to a successful claim is providing documentation and evidence to support your diagnosis and the severity of your condition. There are three ways to get your application for disability benefits underway. You can visit [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov) and start the process [online](#), you can call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213, or you can schedule an appointment at the [local SSA office](#) and start the process by meeting face to face with an SSA

representative. The claims process does take a little while, so make sure you provide all the documentation at once to help avoid any preventable delays.

**Resources:**

- <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/AdultListings.htm>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/13.00-NeoplasticDiseases-Malignant-Adult.htm>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/social-security-disability-compassionate-allowance-initiative>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/social-security-disability-locations>
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/dib>