

Appendix G (2)

MANAGING DISABILITY REVIEWS

When you receive your Notice of Award from the Social Security Administration (SSA), you should find in it a paragraph that explains when you can expect SSA to review the case. Under Social Security law, all disability cases must be reviewed from time to time. This is to assure that people receiving benefits continue to be disabled and meet all other requirements. Reviews are not always conducted at the time originally set.

A. What is the purpose of a continuing disability review?

The purpose of a continuing disability review (or “CDR”) is to decide whether an individual has ceased to be entitled to disability benefits because:

1. the physical and/or mental impairment has ceased,
2. does not exist, or
3. is not disabling.

Social Security Act, Section 1614(a)(4). http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title16b/1614.htm

B. When can you be reviewed?

You can be reviewed:

- At any time if your review is due or overdue.
- Any time you have worked and earned at or above the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level for a total of nine months (SGA is earnings at or above \$1,040 a month in 2013 or \$1,740 a month for blind individuals);
- Six to eighteen months after award if medical improvement can be predicted at the time benefits start;
- About every three years if medical improvement is possible but cannot be predicted; or
- About once every five to seven years if medical improvement is unlikely.

For more information see ***Social Security: What You Need to Know When You Get Disability Benefits***, SSA Publication No. 05-10153. <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10153.html#a0=5>

C. Two kinds of review

Most people will receive one of two kinds of review:

Full Medical Review. When SSA wants a full medical review they send you a letter announcing the review, and someone from your Social Security office contacts you. They ask you to provide information (typically on Continuing Disability Review Report, Form SSA-454-BK) about any medical treatment you've received and any work you have done. SSA generally wants information about your medical and hospital visits in the past 12 months, including copies of records.