

YOUR COMPLIMENTARY HANDBOOK TO

SSDI

Engagement with the SSDI Program



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Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs)

As a participant in the SSDI program, you must fulfill specific criteria to maintain your benefit eligibility. To remain eligible for SSDI benefits, your disability needs to be long-lasting and still affect your ability to work and earn a living. The Social Security Administration conducts periodic assessments, known as ongoing disability assessments (ODAs), to assess your continued qualification for the program. These assessments comprise two categories:

- Employment assessments
- Medical assessments



How SSDI Functions



Work Assessments

During a work assessment, the SSA examines all your earnings to confirm that they fall within the SSDI program’s income limits. To qualify for benefits, your income must remain below a specific threshold, as your disability should continue to affect your earning capacity. For detailed information on income requirements, please consult the “Qualifying Income Thresholds” section in the SSDI Eligibility for Beneficiaries guide.

Medical Assessments

In a medical assessment, the SSA assesses your medical condition to ensure that it still aligns with the disability definition. For additional details, refer to the “Maintaining Eligibility” in the SSDI Eligibility for Beneficiaries guide.

Exemptions from CDRs

If you have been receiving disability benefits for at least 24 months or are actively participating in the Ticket to Work program (further information on this program can be found in the “Ticket to Work Program” section in the The Influence of Employment on SSDI Benefits guide), you won’t be subjected to a medical review solely based on your work activity. This means that if your work or income situation changes, you won’t need to undergo a medical review each time. However, you will still be required to go through regular scheduled medical assessments.

Exemptions from CDRs Cont.



To qualify for a CDR exemption while participating in the Ticket to Work program, you must be actively utilizing a ticket, referred to as “in use.” Your ticket status must indicate “in use” to remain exempt from medical reviews. If your ticket status is listed as any of the following, you will be subject to a medical review:

- Eligible
- Mailed
- Assigned – Not in Use
- Not in Use
- Not Assigned – Not in Use
- Terminated

Assessments Resulting in Benefit Termination

Following an assessment, the SSA determines whether you still meet the eligibility criteria for SSDI or if you no longer satisfy the program’s requirements. There are two primary reasons that can lead to the termination of SSDI benefits:

1. Your employment is deemed “significant.”
 - Earning an average of \$1,470 or more per month (\$2,460 or more if you are blind) is considered substantial.
2. Your medical condition has improved to the extent that you are no longer classified as disabled.

Preparing for a CDR

Before undergoing a Continuing Disability Review (CDR), you will receive correspondence from the SSA, informing you of the upcoming evaluation. Subsequently, your local Social Security office will get in touch with you to provide details about the review process. During this contact, they will request information about your medical treatments and any work you may have undertaken since commencing receipt of SSDI benefits.