

# Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Social Security Disability: The Top Things You Should Know

1. Obtaining disability benefits from Social Security on the basis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) can be challenging because:
  - The symptoms can wax and wane
  - The symptoms can be caused by many different conditions
  - The disease often strikes people in their 20s and 30s. The SSA tends to scrutinize applications from younger applicants closely.

5. Medical documentation is key to winning your case. There must be a record of a medical diagnosis of MS and consistent treatment for your condition.
6. You should keep a journal of your symptoms and to be very careful to document the side effects of any medications you take. Even if medications improve your overall symptoms, documentation of the side effects can contribute to the success of your MS disability claim.

***Approximately 2.5 million people have MS worldwide***

2. MS is addressed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) under Section 11.00 Neurological. Section 11.09 Multiple Sclerosis lists the criteria that applicants must meet.
3. Your MS must be severe enough to prevent you from performing any "substantial, gainful activity" as defined by the SSA in order to gain benefits.
4. The SSA will evaluate how your MS affects your daily activities including work-related ones.

## **Average Monthly Social Security Benefits for 2016**

