

CHAPTER 9  
SECTION 14.2

PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PFPWD):  
ELIGIBILITY QUALIFYING CONDITION: MENTAL RETARDATION

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I. ISSUE

Determination of Program for Persons with Disabilities (PFPWD) qualifying condition of moderate or severe mental retardation.

II. POLICY

A. A diagnosis of moderate or severe mental retardation is a PFPWD qualifying condition when made in accordance with the criteria in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association.

B. For a beneficiary less than 36 months of age, a developmental delay qualifies as moderate or severe mental retardation when standardized diagnostic psychometric tests demonstrate developmental delay equivalent to 2 standard deviations below the mean in adaptive and cognitive or language function. Documentation of a qualifying condition is limited to the following:

1. The Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales yield a composite score of 70 or less; and
2. One of the following tests, or equivalent, confirms the developmental delay in cognitive or language function:
  - a. The Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI) yields a composite score of 68 or less.
  - b. The Bayley Scales of Infant Development (BSID) yields a score of 70 or less.
  - c. The Reynell Developmental Language Scales (RDLS) yields a score of 70 or less.
  - d. The Preschool Language Scale (PLSIII) yields a score of 70 or less.

C. For a beneficiary less than three years of age, the following conditions (ICD-9-CM codes cited) may be presumed to precede a diagnosis of moderate or severe mental retardation:

1. **Down syndrome: 758.0**
2. **Fetal alcohol syndrome: 760.71**

### III. CONSIDERATIONS

**Transition continuity of eligibility.** A beneficiary who has an outstanding Program for the Handicapped (PFTH) benefit authorization during the 30 calendar day period immediately prior to the effective date of the Program for Persons with Disabilities (PFPWD) shall be deemed to have a PFPWD qualifying condition for the duration of the period during which the beneficiary is otherwise eligible for PFPWD.

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