

CHAPTER 9  
SECTION 14.3

PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PFPWD):  
ELIGIBILITY QUALIFYING CONDITION: SERIOUS PHYSICAL  
DISABILITY

Issue Date: July 3, 1997

Authority: [32 CFR 199.5\(b\)\(3\)](#)

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I. ISSUE

Determination of Program for Persons with Disabilities (PFPWD) qualifying condition of serious physical disability.

II. POLICY

A. Any physiological disorder or condition or anatomical loss affecting one or more body systems which has lasted, or with reasonable certainty is expected to last, for a minimum period of 12 contiguous months, and which precludes the person with the disorder, condition or anatomical loss from unaided performance of at least one of the following major life activities is a PFPWD qualifying condition: breathing, cognition, hearing, seeing, and age appropriate ability essential to bathing, dressing, eating, grooming, speaking, stair use, toilet use, transferring, and walking.

B. For a beneficiary less than 36 months of age, a developmental delay qualifies as a serious physical disability when the score on one of the following standardized diagnostic psychometric tests of motor function is 2 standard deviations below the mean. Documentation of a serious physical disability qualifying condition developmental delay must be measured by one of the following standardized tests and the results of the complete test must be provided:

1. The Bayley Scales of Infant Development (BSID) yields a Psychomotor Developmental Index (PDI) of 68 or less or
2. The Peabody Developmental Motor Scales (PDMS) yields a score of 70 or less.

C. The following conditions (ICD-9-CM codes cited) are considered serious physical disabilities for the purpose of establishing a PFPWD qualifying condition:

1. Infantile cerebral palsy: 343.0 through 343.9.
2. Spina bifida: 741.0 through 741.93
3. Vision: 369.01 through 369.08 inclusive; 369.11 through 369.14 inclusive; 369.21; 369.22; 369.4.

4. **Hearing:** Unaided by amplification, the hearing loss threshold is measured at 45 decibels or less in one ear, or 30 decibels or less in both ears **as determined by audiologic function tests**; or when speech discrimination is 60% or less in either ear. In non-testable patients, the attending physician must submit documentation which demonstrates the patient is unable to engage in basic productive activities of daily living expected of unimpaired persons of the same age group. An example of acceptable documentation would be electrophysiological tests of hearing such as auditory evoked potential testing or a behavioral assessment which shows that, without special help, an infant with a hearing impairment will not develop normal language. Each case will be reviewed on its own merits.

5. **Breathing:** Total reliance upon a respirator.

6. Acquired or congenital total loss, or loss of use, of an arm or leg.

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