

Applying for Disability Benefits with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma

Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma (ACC) can arise in any of the body's secreting glands, but is most commonly seen in the neck and head. The location of tumors determines the symptoms you experience. Tumors in the head and neck often affect nerve function, speech, and the ability to swallow. Breathing complications can occur and changes in appearance that accompany tumors in the neck, face, and throat can additionally cause social anxiety issues.

The symptoms of the disease and the side effects of required treatments can certainly make it difficult if not impossible to maintain a full time job. For this reason, ACC is a condition that can qualify you for Social Security disability benefits.

Available Disability Programs

The Social Security Administration (SSA) provides two types of disability benefits for individuals battling severe impairments:

- [Social Security Disability Insurance \(SSDI\)](#) provides benefits to qualified disabled workers that have contributed to the Social Security Fund over the course of their employment history.
- [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) benefits provide coverage for qualified, financially needy disabled individuals no matter their age or work history.

Once you medically qualify for benefits, you can be considered for coverage through SSDI and SSI. The technical eligibility requirements vary between these programs, but many applicants are able to receive monthly payments through both.

Medically Qualifying with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma

To qualify medically for benefits, you must either:

- meet or match a listed impairment that appears in the SSA's [Blue Book](#)
- OR
- show that your functional capacity is so limited that you are unable to work, despite not meeting or matching a disability listing.

There is no dedicated listing in the Blue Book for ACC, but there are listings that may apply to your claim. The SSA reviews cancer applications under the listing for the body system in which tumors originate. Because ACC can develop in several different locations, your application for benefits may be reviewed under any of the following Blue Book listings:

- [Section 13.03](#) – Skin
- [Section 13.08](#) – Salivary Glands

- [Section 13.10](#) – Breasts
- [Section 13.12](#) – Jaw or face
- [Section 13.20](#) – Vulva

No matter where your ACC developed, the SSA will need to see detailed medical records documenting the extent and affect of the disease and the side effects and limitations that result from your required treatments.

A Medical Vocational Allowance

Generally, the SSA only considers carcinoma qualified for disability benefits under a Blue Book listing if the disease progresses or spreads after initial treatment. That being said, you may be able to qualify for without meeting or matching a Blue Book listing. For this to occur, the SSA must review your [“residual functional capacity” or RFC](#).

Your illness, treatments, education level, work history, and job skills combined must make it impossible for you to earn a gainful living. If this is true, then the SSA can find you eligible for benefits under a “medical vocational allowance.”

The Compassionate Allowances Program

If your ACC has advanced and spread, the SSA will review your application more quickly as part of its Compassionate Allowances (CAL) program. This initiative is designed to ensure severe disabilities and terminal illnesses are pushed through the review stage as quickly as possible. Salivary tumors that have metastasized and other forms of advanced, inoperable, or unresectable ACC are automatically reviewed more rapidly under the CAL program.

Applying for Benefits

You can submit an application for SSDI benefits online at any time, via the SSA’s website, or you can schedule an appointment with your local SSA office to fill out your application with assistance. SSI applications must be completed at the [local office](#) or during a personal interview with an SSA representative. The online application can be found [here](#), or you can schedule your application appointment by calling 1-800-772-1213.

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