



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103P (May 2009)
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration, Community Services Division

Permanent Rule Only

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing.
- Other (specify) (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose:

The Department is amending WAC 388-449-0001 "What are the disability requirements for the aged, blind, or disabled (ABD) program?"; WAC 388-449-0035 "How does the department assign severity ratings to my impairment?"; WAC 388-449-0060 "Sequential evaluation process step II – How does the department review medical evidence to determine if I am eligible for benefits?"; and WAC 388-449-0080 "Sequential evaluation process step IV – How does the department evaluate if I am able to perform relevant past work?"

These changes are necessary to conform to Senate Bill (SB) 6573, Laws of 2014, which restores the more restrictive ABD disability standard previously in place until December 31, 2013 by increasing the minimum duration from 9 to 12 months and consideration of an individual's ability to perform past work from 10 to 15 years.

These amendments are currently in effect via emergency rule-making filed on October 28, 2014 as WSR 14-22-031.

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed: None
 Amended: 388-449-0001, 388-449-0035, 388-449-0060, and 388-449-0080
 Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: Senate Bill (SB) 6573, Chapter 218, Laws of 2014 and RCW 74.04.005, 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, 74.08A.100, 74.04.770, 74.62.030.

Other authority: 2E2SHB 1738, Chapter 15, Laws of 2011; SB 6573; and RCW 41.05.021, 74.04.050, 74.08.090, 74.09.035, 74.09.530.

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 14-21-129 (CR 102) filed October 20, 2014.
 Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: N/A
 If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: _____ phone () _____
 Address: _____ fax () _____
 e-mail _____

Date adopted: January 8, 2015

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Katherine Vasquez

SIGNATURE

TITLE

DSHS Rules Coordinator

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 12, 2015

TIME: 10:05 AM

WSR 15-03-031

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	_____	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	_____

WAC 388-449-0001 What are the disability requirements for the aged, blind, or disabled (ABD) program? (1) For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "We" and "us" refer to the department of social and health services.

(b) "You" means the applicant or recipient.

(c) "Disabled" means the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity (SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment(s) which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than (~~nine~~) twelve months with available treatment or result in death.

(d) "Physical impairment" means a diagnosable physical illness.

(e) "Mental impairment" means a diagnosable mental disorder. We exclude any diagnosis of or related to alcohol or drug abuse or addiction.

(2) We determine if you are likely to be disabled when:

(a) You apply for ABD cash benefits;

(b) You become employed;

(c) You obtain work skills by completing a training program; or

(d) We receive new information that indicates you may be employable.

(3) We determine you are likely to be disabled if:

(a) You are determined to meet SSA disability criteria by the Social Security Administration (SSA);

(b) You are determined to meet SSA disability criteria by disability determination services (DDDS) based on the most recent DDDS determination;

(c) The Social Security Administration (SSA) stops your supplemental security income (SSI) payments solely because you are not a citizen;

(d) You are eligible for long-term care services from aging and long-term support administration for a medical condition that is expected to last (~~nine~~) twelve months or more or result in death; or

(e) You are approved through the sequential evaluation process (SEP) defined in WAC 388-449-0005 through 388-449-0100. The SEP is the sequence of five steps. Step 1 considers whether you are currently working. Steps 2 and 3 consider medical evidence and whether you are likely to meet or equal a listed impairment under Social Security's rules. Steps 4 and 5 consider your residual functional capacity and vocational factors such as age, education, and work experience in order to determine your ability to do your past work or other work.

(4) If you have a physical or mental impairment and you are impaired by alcohol or drug addiction and do not meet the other disability criteria in subsection (2)(a) through (d) above, we decide if you are eligible for ABD cash by applying the sequential evaluation process described in WAC 388-449-0005 through 388-449-0100. You aren't eligible for ABD cash benefits if you are disabled primarily because of alcoholism or drug addiction.

(5) In determining disability, we consider only your ability to perform basic work-related activities. "Basic work-related activities" are activities that anyone would be required to perform in a work setting. They consist of: sitting, standing, walking, lifting, carrying, handling, and other physical functions (including manipulative or pos-

tural functions such as pushing, pulling, reaching, handling, stooping, or crouching), seeing, hearing, communicating, remembering, understanding and following instructions, responding appropriately to supervisors and coworkers, tolerating the pressures of a work setting, maintaining appropriate behavior, and adapting to changes in a routine work setting.

(6) We determine you are not likely to meet SSI disability criteria if SSA denied your application for SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) based on disability in the last twelve months unless:

- (a) You file a timely appeal with SSA;
- (b) SSA decides you have good cause for a late appeal; or

(c) You give us medical evidence of a potentially disabling condition that SSA did not consider or medical evidence confirming your condition has deteriorated.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-24-040, filed 11/26/13, effective 1/1/14)

WAC 388-449-0035 How does the department assign severity ratings to my impairment? (1) "Severity rating" is a rating of the extent of your impairment and how it impacts your ability to perform basic work activities. The following chart provides a description of limitations on work activities and the severity ratings assigned to each.

Effect on Work Activities	Degree of Impairment	Numerical Value
(a) There is no effect on your performance of one or more basic work-related activities.	None	1
(b) There is no significant limit on your performance of one or more basic work-related activities.	Mild	2
(c) There are significant limits on your performance of one or more basic work-related activities.	Moderate	3
(d) There are very significant limits on your performance of one or more basic work-related activities.	Marked	4
(e) You are unable to perform basic work-related activities.	Severe	5

(2) We use the description of how your condition impairs your ability to perform work activities given by the acceptable medical source or your treating provider, and review other evidence you provide, to establish severity ratings when the impairments are supported by, and consistent with, the objective medical evidence.

(3) A contracted doctor reviews your medical evidence and the ratings assigned to your impairment when:

(a) The medical evidence indicates functional limitations consistent with at least a moderate physical or mental health impairment;

(b) Your impairment has lasted or is expected to last, ((~~nine~~) twelve) months or more with available medical treatment; and

(c) You are not an active ABD recipient previously determined likely to be disabled as defined in WAC 388-449-0010 through 388-449-0100.

(4) The contracted doctor reviews your medical evidence, severity rating, and functional assessment to determine whether:

(a) The Medical evidence is objective and sufficient to support the findings of the provider;

(b) The description of the impairment(s) is supported by the medical evidence; and

(c) The severity rating, duration, and assessment of functional limitations assigned by DSHS are consistent with the medical evidence.

(5) If the medical provider's description of your impairment(s) is not consistent with the objective evidence, we will:

(a) Assign a severity rating, duration, and functional limitations consistent with the objective medical evidence; and

(b) Clearly describe why we rejected the medical evidence provider's opinion; and

(c) Identify the medical evidence used to make the determination.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-24-040, filed 11/26/13, effective 1/1/14)

WAC 388-449-0060 Sequential evaluation process step II-How does the department review medical evidence to determine if I am eligible for benefits? When we receive your medical evidence, we review it to determine if it is sufficient to decide whether your circumstances meet disability requirements.

(1) We require written medical evidence to determine disability. The medical evidence must:

(a) Contain sufficient information as described under WAC 388-449-0015;

(b) Be written by an acceptable medical source or treating provider described in WAC 388-449-0010;

(c) Document the existence of a potentially disabling condition by an acceptable medical source described in WAC 388-449-0010; and

(d) Document the impairment has lasted or is expected to last ((~~nine~~) twelve) continuous months or more with available treatment, or result in death.

(2) If the information received isn't clear, we may require more information before we determine whether you meet ABD disability requirements. As examples, we may require you to get more medical tests or be examined by a medical specialist.

(3) We deny disability if:

(a) We don't have evidence that your impairment is of at least moderate severity as defined in WAC 388-449-0035, 388-449-0040, 388-449-0045, or 388-449-0050;

(b) Your impairment hasn't lasted or isn't expected to last ((nine)) twelve or more months with available treatment or result in death; or

(c) We have evidence drug or alcohol abuse or addiction is material to your impairment(s).

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-24-040, filed 11/26/13, effective 1/1/14)

WAC 388-449-0080 Sequential evaluation process step IV—How does the department evaluate if I am able to perform relevant past work?

(1) If we neither deny disability at Step 1 or 2 nor approve it at Step 3, we consider our assessment of your physical and/or mental functional capacity, per WAC 388-449-0020 and 388-449-0030, to determine if you can do work you have done in the past.

(2) We evaluate your work experience to determine if you have relevant past work and transferable skills. "Relevant past work" means work:

(a) Defined as substantial gainful activity per WAC 388-449-0005;

(b) You have performed in the past ((ten)) fifteen years; and

(c) You performed long enough to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to continue performing the job. You must meet the specific vocational preparation level as defined in Appendix C of the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

(3) For each relevant past work situation, we compare:

(a) The exertional, nonexertional, and skill requirements of the job based on the Appendix C of the Dictionary of Occupational Titles; and

(b) Current cognitive, social, exertional, and nonexertional factors that significantly limit your ability to perform past work.

(4) We deny disability when we determine that you are able to perform any of your relevant past work.

(5) We approve disability when you are fifty-five years of age or older and don't have the physical, cognitive, or social ability to perform past work.