



SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Part 404

[Docket No. SSA-2021-0019]

RIN 0960-AI57

Extension of Expiration Date for Neurological Disorders Body System Listings

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are extending the expiration date of the body system, Neurological Disorders, in the Listing of Impairments (listings) in our regulations. We are making no other revisions to this body system in this final rule. This extension ensures that we will continue to have the criteria we need to evaluate neurological impairments at step three of the sequential evaluation processes for initial claims and continuing disability reviews.

DATES: This final rule is effective on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael J. Goldstein, Director, Office of Medical Policy, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 965-1020.

For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, or TTY 1-800-325-0778, or visit our Internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We use the listings in appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 of 20 CFR at the third step of the sequential evaluation process to evaluate claims filed by adults and children for benefits based on disability under the title II and title XVI programs.¹ 20 CFR 404.1520(d), 416.920(d), 416.924(d). The listings are in two parts: Part A has listings criteria for adults and Part B has listings criteria for children. If you are age 18 or over, we apply the listings criteria in Part A when we assess your impairment or combination of impairments. If you are under age 18, we first use the criteria in Part B of the listings when we assess your impairment(s). If the criteria in Part B do not apply, we may use the criteria in Part A when those criteria consider the effects of your impairment(s). 20 CFR 404.1525(b), 416.925(b).

Explanation of Changes

In this final rule, we are extending the date on which the listings for the following body system will no longer be effective as set out in the following chart:

| Body System Listings | Current Expiration Date | Extended Expiration Date |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Neurological Disorders (11.00 and 111.00) | September 29, 2021 | September 29, 2025 |

¹We also use the listings in the sequential evaluation processes we use to determine whether a beneficiary's disability continues. See 20 CFR 404.1594, 416.994, and 416.994a.

We continue to revise and update the listings on a regular basis, including those body systems not affected by this final rule.² We intend to update the listings affected by this final rule as necessary based on medical advances as quickly as possible, but may not be able to publish final rules revising these listings by the current expiration date. Therefore, we are extending the expiration date listed above.

Regulatory Procedures

Justification for Final Rule

We follow the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) rulemaking procedures specified in 5 U.S.C. 553 in promulgating regulations. Section 702(a)(5) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 902(a)(5). Generally, the APA requires that an agency provides prior notice and opportunity for public comment before issuing a final regulation. The APA provides exceptions to the notice-and-comment requirements when an agency finds there is good cause for dispensing with such procedures because they are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.

We determined that good cause exists for dispensing with the notice and public comment procedures. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). This final rule only extends the date on which the Neurological Disorders body system listings will no longer be effective. It makes no substantive changes to our rules. Our current regulations³ provide that we may extend, revise, or promulgate the body system listings again. Therefore, we determined that

² We last revised the expiration date for the Neurological Disorders body system listings when we updated the body system on July 1, 2016 (81 FR 43038, 43052).

³ See the first sentence of appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 of 20 CFR.

opportunity for prior comment is unnecessary, and we are issuing this regulation as a final rule.

In addition, for the reasons cited above, we find good cause for dispensing with the 30-day delay in the effective date of this final rule. 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). We are not making any substantive changes to the Neurological Disorders body system listing. Without an extension of the expiration date for this listing, we will not have the criteria we need to assess medical impairments in the body system at step three of the sequential evaluation processes. We therefore find it is unnecessary to delay the effective date of this final rule.

Executive Order 12866, as Supplemented by Executive Order 13563

We consulted with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and determined that this final rule does not meet the requirements for a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866, as supplemented by Executive Order 13563. Therefore, OMB did not review it. We also determined that this final rule meets the plain language requirement of Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

We certify that this final rule does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it affects only individuals. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended.

Paperwork Reduction Act

These rules do not create any new or affect any existing collections and, therefore, do not require Office of Management and Budget approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 96.001, Social Security-Disability Insurance; 96.002, Social Security-Retirement Insurance; 96.004, Social Security-Survivors Insurance; 96.006, Supplemental Security Income)

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 404

Administrative practice and procedure, Blind, Disability benefits, Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Social Security.

The Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, Kilolo Kijakazi, having reviewed and approved this document, is delegating the authority to electronically sign this document to Faye I. Lipsky, who is the primary Federal Register Liaison for SSA, for purposes of publication in the Federal Register.

Faye I. Lipsky,
Federal Register Liaison,
Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs,
Social Security Administration.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, we are amending subpart P of part 404 of chapter III of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations as set forth below.

PART 404--FEDERAL OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE
(1950--)

Subpart P--[Amended]

1. The authority citation for subpart P of part 404 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 202, 205(a)-(b) and (d)-(h), 216(i), 221(a) and (h)-(j), 222(c), 223, 225, and 702(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402, 405(a)-(b) and (d)-(h), 416(i), 421(a) and (h)-(j), 422(c), 423, 425, and 902(a)(5)); sec. 211(b), Pub. L. 104-193, 110 Stat. 2105, 2189; sec. 202, Pub. L. 108-203, 118 Stat. 509 (42 U.S.C. 902 note).

2. Amend appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 by revising item 12 of the introductory text before Part A to read as follows:

Appendix 1 to Subpart P of Part 404--Listing of Impairments

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12. Neurological Disorders (11.00 and 111.00): September 29, 2025.

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