

WHAT CAN MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS DO TO HELP?

Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits Facts

CPPD is a federal disability program designed to assist individuals who meet the legislative criteria. With stringent guidelines to adhere to by CPP, disability benefits are difficult to obtain and it is important to ensure the individual has provided a comprehensive and complete application.

Doctors are currently required to fill in a Medical Report and submit medical documents in support of the patient. However, Nurse Practitioners are playing an important role in the completion of these forms. The following tips maybe helpful as you assist your patient.

Inform your Patient – inform your patients that you believe may qualify for the benefit that the information is out there and point them in the right direction to start an application process.

Assist the Client in Filling out the Medical Report – we understand that often times the Nurse Practitioner has more frequent contact with the patient then the Primary Care Provider, in this case you can offer to fill in the Medical Report for CPP Disability Benefits and have the doctor add any information and sign the bottom. Things to include are:

The nature of the medical condition. What is the nature of the individual’s medical condition? Would it be considered “severely” disabling and does the condition lead to an inability to work?

What are the functional limitations. For an individual a functional limitation is an impairment that causes less than normal performance. Questions to consider are what functional limitations would normally result from the medical condition(s) and how do these functional limitations affect the patient’s capacity to work? To what extent “mildly, moderately, or severely.”

What is the impact of treatment. Is the ongoing medical treatment likely to affect the individual’s short-term capacity to work? Will the individual’s medications and recommended treatments undermine the individual’s short or long-term capacity to work? Will prolonged attendance at regular treatment sessions diminish short-term ability to work? Have there been failed treatment attempts?

Your medical statements. Have you made a statement that may indicate that the applicant is incapable of working? Is there objective medical evidence to support your statement? (At times, objective evidence may not be available; for example with chronic pain). What other indicators are there to support these statements?

Multiple Medical conditions. Are there multiple medical conditions, which alone might not indicate incapacity to work, but together would indicate such an incapacity? Are there additional medical factors increasing the severity of the condition?

CPPD allows for the completion of the CPPD medical report by Nurse Practitioners practicing in remote or rural areas. There are many individuals who will struggle to complete a CPPD application. Service Canada does not provide assistance for completion of the application and given the denial rate (over 50%) it may help your client to obtain professional advice. Please have them call our office to explain our services.

If you need more information about CPP Disability Benefits, or have any further questions, please contact the Disability Claims Advocacy Clinic Inc. at 1-877-793-3222 or visit our website www.dcac.ca. We can help your patients apply for CPP disability benefits today!