



Establishing the Existence of a Disability

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This policy replaces the following VPPM 5 policy - Establishment of a Disability - Article 45(1). This policy replaces the following PPM policy: Establishment of a Disability - Article 21 (1&2).

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide general guidance on determining that a disability exists; specifically, the requirement for a medical diagnosis and who must provide a diagnosis.

Policy

General

1. An important part of the adjudication of a disability benefit claim is determining whether an injury or disease has resulted in a disability.

2. The definition of “disability” is found in subsection 3(1) of the [Pension Act](#) and subsection 2(1) of the [Veterans Well-being Act](#) .
3. In general, to determine that a disability exists, the Department requires medical evidence that establishes a diagnosis of a medical condition. As part of this diagnosis, the medical evidence should demonstrate that the medical condition is symptomatic and generally expected to persist.
4. A diagnosis may be provided by:
 - a. a qualified medical practitioner, i.e. a medical doctor who is licensed by a provincial medical college to practice in the provincial jurisdiction; or
 - b. other regulated health care professionals who are duly authorized under federal or provincial statute to diagnose medical conditions in their area of expertise and are registered in good standing with a professional body which governs the licensing and accreditation of their particular profession, i.e. registered psychologists and clinical audiologists.
 - i. A diagnosis provided by regulated health care professionals, other than registered psychologists and clinical audiologists may be considered on a case by case basis.
5. Diagnostic requirements relating to specific medical conditions can be found in other departmental documents, including the [Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#) and the [Hearing Loss and Tinnitus](#) policy.

References

[Pension Act](#) , subsections 3(1), 21(1), and 21(2)

[Veterans Well-being Act](#), subsection 2(1); section 45

[Hearing Loss and Tinnitus](#)

[Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines](#)