

Presumptive Disability or Blindness

## 1. Basis for the PD/PB Finding

### a. FO PD/PB Finding

FO findings are based on the individual's allegations, which must be supported by:

- Observations made during an interview that are consistent with the allegations; or
- Contact with other sources that confirm the allegations, e.g., treating medical sources, parents, spouses, or other knowledgeable third parties.

### b. No FO PD/PB Finding

If the FO does not make a PD/PB finding, the DDS may make a PD/PB finding when additional evidence indicate it is appropriate.

## 2. Categories for PD/PB Findings

The following chart lists the special categories in which the FO is authorized to make a PD/PB finding:

NO.	PD/PB CATEGORIES
1	Obsolete - Reserved for future use.
2	Amputation of a leg at the hip.
3	Allegation of total deafness; that is, no sound perception in either ear.
4	Allegation of total blindness; that is, no light perception in either eye.
5	Allegation of bed confinement and immobility without a wheelchair, walker, or crutches, due to a longstanding condition, excluding recent accident and recent surgery.
6	Allegation of stroke (cerebral vascular accident) more than 3 months in the past and continued marked difficulty in walking or using a hand or arm.
7	Allegation of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy or muscle atrophy, and marked difficulty in walking (e.g., the use of braces), speaking, or coordination of the hands or arms.
8	Obsolete - Reserved for future use.
9	Allegation of Down syndrome. <b>NOTE:</b> Down syndrome is usually characterized by developmental delays and mental retardation, and by abnormal physical findings such as characteristic facial features (lateral upward slope of the eyes, extra skin folds between the eye and nose, protruded large tongue, short nose with a flat bridge, and frequently with small, abnormally aligned teeth); generalized low muscle tone; short arms and legs; and hands and feet

NO.	PD/PB CATEGORIES
	that tend to be broad and flat. Fifty percent of individuals with Down syndrome have congenital heart disease. Individuals with Down syndrome may also have congenital bowel abnormalities, vision and hearing problems, or other medical conditions.
10	<p>Allegation of severe mental deficiency made by another individual filing on behalf of a claimant who is at least 7 years of age. For example, a mother filing for benefits for her child states that the child attends (or attended) a special school, or special classes in school, because of mental deficiency or that the child is unable to attend any type of school (or if beyond school age, was unable to attend), and requires care and supervision of routine daily activities.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> This PD category pertains to individuals with mental retardation or other cognitive impairment (e.g., autistic spectrum disorder) who are extremely limited in mental functioning such that they depend upon others for meeting personal care needs (e.g., toileting, eating, dressing, or bathing) to a degree that grossly exceeds age-appropriate dependence.</p>
11	A child has not attained his or her first birthday and the birth certificate or other medical evidence shows a weight below 1200 grams (2 pounds, 10 ounces) at birth.
12	Symptomatic human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (see <a href="#">DI 23535.011</a> and <a href="#">DI 23535.012</a> ). Form SSA-4814 or SSA-4815 is needed.
13	<p>A child has not attained his or her first birthday and available medical evidence shows a gestational age (GA) at birth with the corresponding birth-weight indicated:</p> <p>GA: 37-40 weeks Weight at Birth: Less than 2000 grams (4 pounds, 6 ounces)</p> <p>GA: 36 weeks Weight at Birth: 1875 grams or less (4 pounds, 2 ounces)</p> <p>GA: 35 weeks Weight at Birth: 1700 grams or less (3 pounds, 12 ounces)</p> <p>GA: 34 weeks Weight at Birth: 1500 grams or less (3 pounds, 5 ounces)</p> <p>GA: 33 weeks Weight at Birth: At least 1200 grams, but no more than 1325 grams (2 pounds, 15 ounces)</p> <p>For infants weighing under 1200 grams at birth, see category 11.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> GA is based upon the date of conception. If more than one GA is noted in the medical evidence, the FO forwards the case to the DDS for consideration of a PD finding.</p>
14	A physician confirms by telephone or in a signed statement that an individual has a terminal illness with a life expectancy of 6 months or less; or a physician or knowledgeable hospice official (e.g., hospice coordinator, staff nurse, social worker, or medical records custodian) confirms that an individual is receiving hospice services because of a terminal illness. (For terminal illness procedures, see <a href="#">DI 23020.045</a> and <a href="#">DI</a>

NO.	PD/PB CATEGORIES
	<p><a href="#">11005.601.</a>)</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The term “hospice” refers to a program of palliative and supportive care for terminally ill persons. Such services may be provided in the home or in an inpatient facility. Under Federal guidelines, the hospice benefit is available to individuals who have been certified by a physician to be terminally ill. An individual is considered to be terminally ill if he or she has a medical prognosis that his or her life expectancy is 6 months or less.</p>
15	<p>Allegation of a spinal cord injury producing an inability to ambulate without the use of a walker or bilateral hand-held assistive devices for more than 2 weeks, with confirmation of such status from an appropriate medical professional as defined in <a href="#">DI 22505.003B.1.</a></p>
16	<p>Allegation of end stage renal disease (ESRD) requiring chronic dialysis and the file contains a completed CMS-2728-U3 (End Stage Renal Disease Medical Evidence Report-Medicare Entitlement and/or Patient Registration). (See <a href="#">HI 00801.233.</a>)</p>
17	<p>Allegation of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.</p>