

Severe conditions

From 29 September 2017 there is a new sub group to the Limited Capability for Work and Work Related Activity (LCWRA) category, named Severe Conditions. It applies to those claimants with the most severe and lifelong health conditions or disabilities.

Following a day one, day 29 or routine Work Capability Assessment (WCA) made on or after 29 September 2017, where the Healthcare Professional (HCP) advises that a claimant has LCWRA, they will also advise if the claimant meets the Severe Conditions criteria.

If the HCP advises that a claimant has LCWRA and that all FOUR of the following criteria are met, then the HCP will also advise that the claimant meets the Severe Condition criteria.

As the health of a claimant who meets the Severe Conditions criteria is unlikely to improve, they do not need to have any further WCAs to be reassessed, unless they tell us that their condition has changed or improved.

Severe Conditions Criteria

Criterion	Description	Examples of conditions that might meet the criteria	Examples of conditions that might <u>not</u> meet the criteria
The level of function will always meet LCWRA	The level of function would always meet LCWRA criteria	Motor Neuron Disease (MND), severe autism, Parkinson's, all dementias, all chromosomal conditions, Huntington's, severe irreversible cardiorespiratory failure, severe acquired brain injury ...this list is not exhaustive	Conditions which might be severe at times but recovery of function might be present for substantial periods, such as the early stages of MS or some people with less severe mental health conditions with periods of reasonable function.

Lifelong condition, once diagnosed	The condition will always be present. Some lifelong conditions are present from birth, but others will develop or be acquired later in life.		Conditions which might be cured by transplant / surgery / treatments or conditions which might resolve. This should be based on currently available treatment on the NHS and not on the prospect of scientists discovering a cure in the future
No realistic prospect of recovery of function	Advice on this should be based on currently available treatment and not on the prospect of scientists discovering a cure in the future.	As per criterion 1	A person within the first 12 months following a significant stroke who may recover function during rehabilitation, so whilst the condition is lifelong, function might improve
Unambiguous condition	They have been through relevant clinical examinations with their health practitioner and full investigations have been completed. There should be no doubt that the person is significantly and substantially impaired.	As per criterion 1	Some pain syndromes might not be fully understood or investigated. Unexplained symptoms might later be found to be part of a treatable condition