

Severe Conditions

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From 29 September 2017, there is a new sub-group to the limited capability for work and work-related activity (LCWRA) category called Severe Conditions. It applies to those claimants with the most severe and lifelong health conditions or disabilities.

Following a day 1, 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 below.

If the healthcare-professional advises that a claimant has LCWRA and that all FOUR of the following criteria are met, they will recommend that the claimant meets the Severe Conditions criteria. Only the HCP can make this recommendation.

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

| Criteria | Description | Examples of conditions that might meet the criteria | Examples of conditions that might <u>not</u> meet the criteria |
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| The level of function will always meet LCWRA | The level of function would always meet LCWRA criteria | Motor Neuron Disease, severe autism, Parkinson's, all dementias, all chromosomal conditions, Huntington's, | Conditions which might be severe at times, but recovery of function might be present for substantial periods, such as the early stages of multiple |

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| | | severe irreversible cardiorespiratory failure, severe acquired brain injury ...this list is not exhaustive | sclerosis 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 criteria 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 | As per criteria 1 | Some pain syndromes might not be fully understood or investigated. Unexplained symptoms might later be found to be part of a treatable condition |

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| | person is significantly and substantially impaired. | | |
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