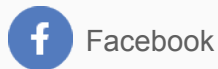




**PERSONAL INJURY
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& SOCIAL SECURITY**
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When you or a loved one becomes disabled, anything that can help speed up the process of applying for and receiving a decision on benefits is a welcome development in your case. One of the articles we have included in this month's newsletter discusses the new technology that's being used to share medical records between the Department of Defense and Social Security with little or no delay at all.

Our second article this month covers a topic that impacts millions of Americans and their families. I think many people think of the term "disability" and automatically picture a physical type of disability. However, depression is also a serious condition that can cause difficulties in daily living, including working.

I hope you will take a moment to read both of our articles this month, and contact us with any questions you may have on these or other topics related to disability benefits. Our team has experience and expertise in every area of Social Security benefits, and we are always happy to share that knowledge with you to help in your fight to receive the benefits you deserve.



[Severe Anxiety and Social Security Disability Benefits](#)

[Back Pain and Social Security Disability Benefits](#)

[Paying Taxes on \\$30K for \\$0 in Benefits](#)

[Dash Cam Confessional: The Truth About How Dash Cams Impact Your Personal Injury Claim](#)

[Ovarian Cancer and SSDI](#)

[Driving Blind: An In-depth Look at Semi-Autonomous](#)

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MEDICAL DATA AVAILABLE
ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY**

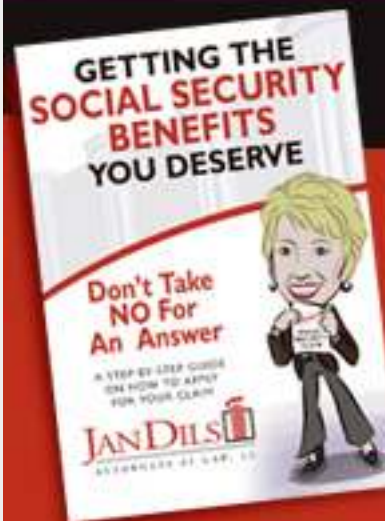
Social Security has started receiving Service member, Veteran, and eligible family members medical records electronically from the Department of Defense (DoD) using health information technology (health IT) leveraging the eHealth Exchange. This latest improvement speeds processing times of disability applications. The disability case processing sites can receive medical records from DoD almost instantaneously.

Social Security has added the DoD to the 50 plus other

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health IT partners across the U.S. in more than 7,000 facilities that provide Social Security with electronic health record (EHR) data. More and more facilities across the nation are implementing EHR systems.

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Obtaining medical evidence is critical to the disability determination process. Social Security requests more than 15 million medical records from almost 500,000 providers to make decisions on approximately three million disability claims annually. As EHR systems mature and health IT grows between organizations and across the country, Social Security is able to help more people through the disability determination process while also improving services to the non-military public. Health IT partnership benefits include:

- a more efficient means of obtaining medical records;
- improvement in the rate of responses received;
- consistently formatted records;
- reducing paper based processes; and
- potentially reducing the total time it takes to adjudicate disability claims.

Source: <http://blog.ssa.gov/dod-medical-data-available-almost-instantaneously/#more-1171>



It is estimated that around 19 million Americans are suffering from some form of depression. Depression is the number one cause of disability for nonfatal medical conditions in the US. Symptoms of depression include: gloom, sadness and hopelessness paired with chronic fatigue and low energy. To help those affected by depression,

the SSA recognizes depression as a valid claim for disability benefits.

To help diagnose severe depression quickly, the SSA developed a list of symptoms commonly associated with depression. **In order to qualify for Social Security benefits for depression, claimants need to have at least four of the following symptoms:**

- Lack of interest or pleasure in most activities
- Decreased energy
- Poor appetite or overeating
- Insomnia or oversleeping
- Difficulty concentrating or thinking
- Lack of physical movement
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Paranoia, delusions, or hallucinations
- Suicidal thoughts

The SSA also requires that these four symptoms cause you serious difficulties in:

- Activities of daily living
- Social functioning
- Focusing
- Repeated, extended periods of worsening symptoms

The majority of approved depression claims are not by the above list. A medical-vocational allowance is the most common way to get approved for depression benefits. To qualify for a medical-vocational allowance, the SSA will assess how your depression affects your ability to:

- Understand, remember, and carry out simple instructions
- Make simple work-related decisions
- Respond appropriately to supervision and to co workers
- Handle changes in routine

In addition, these symptoms and limitations must last or be expected to last a minimum of 12 months prohibiting you from seeking gainful employment. If the SSA denies your claim for depression benefits, there is an appeals process you can go through. Using a lawyer who is trained in social security benefits for depression can be a huge help to your case. Jan Dils Attorneys at Law is skilled in all kinds of disability benefits appeals, including depression. Calling for a free consultation is your first step to getting the help and benefits you deserve.

Source: <http://www.jandils.com/blog/>

Jan Dils keeps you updated on Social Security disability benefits news and important issues that matter the most. We not only focus on Social Security Disability, we also provide legal assistance for Veterans Disability Benefits . We understand the claims process and specialize in making sure Veterans receive the proper representation needed for receiving benefits. For more information on our Veterans Disability services, please visit www.fight4vets.com

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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