

## ARD and Disability Benefits

Many of our members and visitors to the International Adhesions Society (IAS) report that they have difficulty in obtaining Social Security, disability or other unemployment benefits arising out of their Adhesion Related disorder.

We have been asked to provide some guidance to help people obtain benefits to which they may be entitled.

We are therefore providing the following letter which we hope will explain to the benefits officer the problems of ARD.

**However, it should be used in association with a very descriptive letter from the ARD sufferer that describes exactly your physical symptoms how they prevent you from performing a job.**

Regulations in different countries will almost certainly vary, but any person applying for US Social Security Disability must prove WHY they cannot perform a job task, what is it about their specific symptoms, regardless of cause, that prevents them from being employable.

The Department of Social Security is only remotely interested in the applicant's medical diagnosis, which you will need to substantiate with medical records anyway.

A common misunderstanding on the part of the applicant for disability is that you must prove that you are NOT employable and WHY you are not employable. It is not because you have ARD, a bad back, cancer, or any other disorder that is disabling, you must state what it is that will cause an employer to judge you as unemployable and unable to be productive.

So for example, an ARD sufferer might present themselves for employment but:

- Cannot stand for over 5 minute without experiencing pain
- Cannot sit for over 5 minutes due to pain levels
- May have spontaneous regurgitation due to GERD,
- May suffer diarrhea that causes them to need bathroom facilities regularly and spontaneously
- Requires medication that causes drowsiness, (or other side affects that might impede production)
- Needs to drink fluids constantly due to dehydration from vomiting or diarrhea.

It is imperative that anyone applying for disability must focus on WHY and WHAT makes them a poor candidate to be employed! You have to describe what makes you unemployable. This must be associated with the medical condition you will have substantiated by your medical reports.

To be considered disabled, you must display physical behaviors manifested by your medical diagnosis and explain how they make you unemployable.

Look at the numerous physical, psychological symptoms of the chronic sufferer and ask yourself why you would not or could not employ them based on their reactions to their symptoms from ARD. Think about why an employer might find you a liability in his/her employment, as who wants to hire someone on pain medications, and a cocktail of them at that!

An example of a letter sent recently to the US Veterans Disability board is [shown here](#). It may be helpful to send along photos showing evidence of colostomies, or other items which limit ones ability to work.

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