

# **25TH ANNUAL HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE CONFERENCE**

Social Security Disability Strategies

2:30pm to 3:30pm

June 25, 2010

**PRESENTATION  
PRESENTED  
BY**

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**WELCOME TO THE  
CONTINUATION OF OUR  
TALK ON SOCIAL  
SECURITY**

# TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

As you can see this is a difficult process and medical documentation is very important.

- Be extremely honest with your doctor about all of the changes in your condition. Make sure your doctor listens and records your issues.
- Don't sugar coat your answers to your doctor.
- Accept all testing as it may document your condition as you begin to decline

# QUESTIONAIRES

- ▣ Social Security Disability Determination Services will require you to complete questionnaires concerning your daily living and pain. It is very important to answer each question as honestly and accurately as possible. These forms are your opportunity to communicate with the examiner.
- ▣ *PLEASE REFER TO THE HANDOUT*

# THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR BENEFITS

Your initial application for benefits could take between 3 and 5 months before you receive a decision. Don't apply too soon to ensure that there is enough medical evidence to receive an allowance.

If you are denied you can file for reconsideration. This process could take between 5 and 6 months before you receive a decision.

If you are denied you can appeal to the Administrative Law Judge. It could take between a year and a year and a half before you will see the judge. The decision could take another three months after the hearing.

If you are denied by the Administrative Law Judge, you can appeal to the Appeals Council. It could be up to three years before your case would be reviewed;

**REMEMEMBER: DON'T APPLY TOO EARLY!**

# WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CONDITION GETS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE DURING THE PROCESS

## Initial Claim

Make sure that the medical record is up to date and submit updated medical records to Disability Determination Services for review. Do not send your medical records to your local Social Security Office.

# **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CONDITION GETS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE DURING THE PROCESS**

## **Reconsideration:**

Make sure that the medical record is up to date and submit updated medical records to Disability Determination Services for review. Do not send your medical records to your local Social Security Office.



# **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CONDITION GETS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE DURING THE PROCESS**

Administrative Law Judge.

Write a detailed letter to the Office of Adjudication and Review explaining the significant changes in your condition and ask for an “On the Record Review” and submit all updated medical records with the letter. Do not file for an “On the Record Review” unless you believe you will meet or equal a listing.

# **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CONDITION GETS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE DURING THE PROCESS**

## **Appeals Council**

**You can always file a new claim while waiting for  
the decision**

**SHOULD I APPLY NOW?**

**I was just diagnosed with Huntington's Disease but I have no symptoms..**

**NO. Don't apply to soon. You will be denied benefits if you do not have medical evidence that will prevent you from significant gainful activity. Your diagnosis alone will not get you benefits.**

**My family members have Huntington's Disease but I have not been diagnosed nor have any symptoms.**

**NO. Your own medical record is the only evidence that can be used to get you benefits. Make sure that you have significant symptoms before applying.**

**I just started having some minor cognitive and or physical symptoms related to HD**

**MAYBE. Make sure your doctor is recording any and all changes to your condition, even the little ones. When you have significant issues with your health.....apply**

**What do I do if I am still working but its is getting harder and harder to do my job. I am afraid of loosing my health benefits.**

- 1. See if your employer is willing to work with you so you can continue to work**
- 2. Family Medical Leave Act**
- 3. Short –term Disability from your employer**
- 4. Cobra**

**If you have any questions concerning  
when to apply, please feel free to ask**



# **NO TWO PATIENTS ARE ALIKE!!!!**

**Remember, you are an individual and your medical records must reflect the severity of your illness. Just because someone you know has disability does not mean you will qualify.**

**FEEL FREE TO ASK ANY  
QUESTIONS BEFORE WE  
CLOSE**

**THANKS FOR  
COMING!**