



Social Security (Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension) Determination 2011

Table 6 – Functioning related to Alcohol, Drug and Other Substance Use

Introduction to Table 6

- Table 6 is to be used where the person has a permanent condition resulting in functional impairment due to excessive use of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substances (e.g. glue or petrol) or the misuse of prescription drugs.
- This Table applies to people who have current, continuing alcohol, drug or other harmful substance use disorders and those in active treatment.
- Former users with resulting long-term impairments should be assessed under the relevant Table(s).
Example: Table 7 (Brain Function) should be used where the person has permanent neurological impairment resulting from previous alcohol, drug or other harmful substance use.
- The diagnosis of this condition must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Self-report of symptoms alone is insufficient.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment.
- Examples of corroborating evidence for the purposes of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a report from the person's treating doctor;
 - a report from a medical specialist (e.g. addiction medicine specialist or psychiatrist with experience in diagnosis or treatment of substance use disorders) confirming diagnosis of substance use disorder and resulting impairment of other body systems or functions;
 - results of investigations (e.g. liver function tests, alcohol and substance use assessment scales);
 - reports or other records of participation in treatment or rehabilitation programs;
 - work or training attendance records.
- The use of drugs or alcohol does not in itself constitute or necessarily indicate permanent impairment.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is no functional impact from alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) is able to reliably attend and effectively participate in work, education or training activities; and (b) attends to all aspects of personal care and daily living tasks.

5	<p><i>There is mild functional impact from alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use.</i></p> <p>(1) At least one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person engages in alcohol or illicit drug use and experiences some physical or cognitive effects that carry over into working hours (e.g. poor concentration, lethargy, irritability); or (b) the person has occasional difficulties in reliably attending work, education or training sessions or appointments or completing duties or assigned tasks; or (c) the person is sometimes absent from work, education or training activities due to the effects of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use.
10	<p><i>There is moderate functional impact from alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use.</i></p> <p>(1) Most of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person regularly uses alcohol, drugs or other harmful substances and as a result experiences difficulties performing physical or cognitive tasks; (b) the person often has difficulty completing daily tasks and responsibilities due to the short term or long term effects of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substances; (c) the person's use of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substances is having a detrimental effect on family or social relationships and activities; (d) the person has more frequent difficulties in reliably attending appointments or completing duties or assigned tasks; (e) the person is often absent from work, education or training activities due to the effects of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use. <p>(2) This impairment rating level includes a person in receipt of treatment and in sustained remission (e.g. a person who is receiving Methadone treatment or other opiate replacement therapy) and who is able to complete most activities of daily living.</p>
20	<p><i>There is severe functional impact from alcohol, drug or other harmful substance use.</i></p> <p>(1) Most of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person neglects personal care, hygiene, nutrition and general health; (b) the person spends most of the time using, procuring or recovering from the effects of, alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use; (c) there is medical or psychological evidence that the person has physical or cognitive impairment resulting from excessive use of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substances (e.g. diagnosed end organ damage, psychological or psychiatric assessment showing sustained and significant impairment or behavioural dysfunction linked to brain damage resulting from substance use); (d) remission is only very brief if it occurs; (e) the person is frequently absent from work, education or training activities due to the effects of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use.

30	<p><i>There is an extreme functional impact from alcohol, drug or other harmful substance use.</i></p> <p>(1) Most of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the person has a long-term, entrenched and diagnosed alcohol, drug or other harmful substance use disorder and has engaged in multiple attempts at various treatment programs without any significant periods of sustained remission or sustained improvement;(b) the person neglects most aspects of self care, family relationships, social interaction and community involvement;(c) there is well-documented medical evidence of significant and permanent damage to physical health (e.g. failure of the liver or other organs) or diagnosed brain injury with severely impaired cognitive function resulting from alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use;(d) the person is rarely able to attend work, education, or training activities due to the effects of alcohol, drugs or other harmful substance use.
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