

Table 10 - Digestive and Reproductive Function

Introduction to Table 10

- Table 10 is to be used to assess the functional impairment of a diagnosed condition related to digestive or reproductive system functions.
- Digestive conditions may include cancer and other diseases that affect the mouth, salivary glands, oesophagus, stomach, intestines (small or large intestine), pancreas, liver, gall bladder, bile ducts, rectum or anus.
- Reproductive system conditions may include gynaecological diseases (such as severe and intractable endometriosis, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, endometrial cancers) and conditions of the male reproductive system (such as prostate cancer).
- The diagnosis of the condition causing the impairment must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment.
- Self-report of symptoms must be supported by corroborating medical evidence.
- 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 (such as a gastroenterologist, a gynaecologist, an urologist or an oncologist) confirming diagnosis of a digestive or reproductive system condition;
 - Results of investigations (such as X-Rays or other imagery, endoscopy or colonoscopy).
- Personal care needs associated with digestive conditions include, but are not limited to, the need to take medications when symptoms occur, care of special feeding equipment (such as Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) button or special feeding tube), special diets or feeding solutions, strategies to relieve chronic pain, additional toileting and personal hygiene needs.
- Personal care needs associated with reproductive system conditions include, but are not limited to, strategies to relieve chronic pain or more frequent menstrual care.
- When determining whether a descriptor applies that involves a person performing an activity, the descriptor applies if that person can do the activity when they would be expected to do so and not only once or rarely.
- When assessing episodic or fluctuating impairments and conditions, a rating must be assigned which reflects the overall functional impact of those impairments, taking into account the severity, duration and frequency of the episodes or fluctuations as appropriate.
- The examples used in descriptors are not an exhaustive list and are to be used only as a guide.

| Points | Descriptors |
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| 0 | <p><i>There is no or minimal functional impact from symptoms associated with a digestive or reproductive system condition.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is not usually interrupted at work or other activity by symptoms or personal care needs associated with a digestive or reproductive system condition.</p> |
| 5 | <p><i>There is a mild functional impact from symptoms associated with a digestive or reproductive system condition.</i></p> <p>(1) At least one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person's attention and concentration at a task are sometimes (on most days) interrupted or reduced by chronic pain or other symptoms or personal care needs associated with the digestive or reproductive system condition; or (b) the person is sometimes (less than once per month) absent from work, education or training activities due to the digestive or reproductive system condition. |

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| 10 | <p><i>There is a moderate functional impact from symptoms associated with a digestive or reproductive system condition.</i></p> <p>(1) At least 2 of the following apply to the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person's attention and concentration on a task are often (at least once a day but not every hour) interrupted or reduced by chronic pain or other symptoms or personal care needs associated with the digestive or reproductive system condition; (b) the person has moderate difficulty sustaining work activities or other tasks for more than 2 hours without a break due to symptoms of the digestive or reproductive system condition; (c) the person is often (once per month) absent from work, education or training activities due to the digestive or reproductive system condition. |
| 20 | <p><i>There is a severe functional impact from symptoms associated with a digestive or reproductive system condition.</i></p> <p>(1) At least 2 of the following apply to the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person's attention and concentration at a task is frequently (at least once every hour) interrupted or reduced by chronic pain or other symptoms or personal care needs associated with the digestive or reproductive system condition; (b) the person has severe difficulty sustaining work activities or other tasks for a total of more than 3 hours a day, even with regular breaks, due to symptoms of the digestive or reproductive system condition; (c) the person has severe difficulty travelling to or participating in community or social environments due to symptoms or management of the gastrointestinal reproductive system functions; causing frequent disruption to daily activities due to avoidance of activities; <i>Example: the person avoids using lifts, public transport or being near others due to the nature of their condition.</i> (d) The person is frequently (twice or more per month) absent from work, education or training activities due to the digestive or reproductive system condition. |

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*There is an **extreme** functional impact from symptoms associated with a digestive or reproductive system condition.*

- (1) At least 2 of the following apply to the person:
 - (a) the person's attention and concentration at a task are continually interrupted or reduced by chronic pain or other symptoms or care needs associated with the digestive or reproductive system condition (such that pain or other symptoms are present all or most of the time);
 - (b) the person is unable to sustain work activity or other tasks for more than one hour without a break due to symptoms of the digestive or reproductive system condition;
 - (c) the person has extreme difficulty travelling to or being in social environments due to symptoms or management of the gastrointestinal or reproductive system functions, causing extreme disruption to daily activities and rarely engages in activities outside of the home;
 - (d) the person is rarely able to attend work, education or training activities due to the digestive or reproductive system condition.