Disability Assistance - Medical Report Factsheet

The Department of Social Security in Malta provides disability assistance to eligible individuals:

- Assistance for the Visually Impaired: Eligibility: May be available for individuals aged between fourteen (14) years and under sixty-five (65) years of age, who are either completely or partially visually impaired.
- II. **Disability Assistance:** Eligibility: May be awarded to individuals aged between sixteen (16) years and under sixty-five (65) years of age, who suffer from total paralysis, permanent total severe malfunction, or permanent total disability due to amputation of an upper or lower limb. Disability Assistance is also awarded to individuals with hearing or speech impairment.
- III. **Severe Disability Assistance (physical):** Eligibility: May be available for individuals aged between sixteen (16) years and under sixty-five (65) years of age, with physical disabilities.
- IV. **Severe Disability Assistance (Intellectual):** Eligibility: May be provided to individuals aged between sixteen (16) years and under sixty-five (65) years of age, with intellectual and general learning disabilities.

Key steps for applying for one of the disability assistances

1. Visit your Treating Specialist:

- The person with a disability, who is hereby referred to as the applicant, visits a Treating Specialist who will complete a medical report as part of the application process.
- The Treating Specialist submits an online application on behalf of the applicant.
- With the application, the Treating Specialist needs to upload a document indicating the medical diagnosis of the applicant's condition.
- If the applicant is sixty (60) years or over but under sixty-five (65) years of age, an official medical document from hospital proving that the applicant has been diagnosed with the condition prior to reaching sixty years (60) of age, is to be uploaded. If the applicant has reached sixty-five (65) years of age, the applicant is not eligible for any of the benefits referred to above.
- Any additional medical information about the applicant, may be provided by the Treating Specialist in the medical information comment box of the application.

2. Authentication and Verification:

- The Treating Specialist of the applicant authenticates using their own e-ID.
- These credentials will later on be verified by the officers within the Department using the Medical Register.
- The Treating Specialist has the option to indicate a different email address to that assigned with their own e-ID at application stage.

3. Email Confirmation:

• Upon submission, both the Treating Specialist and the applicant (if an email address is provided in the application), will receive an automatically generated email acknowledgement.

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4. Application Vetting:

- The Department reviews the application to ensure that all details in the application are correct and documents requested at application stage are attached with the submission.
- If there is approval at the initial stage, the Department schedules an interview with the applicant and is served with a letter explaining the Inter-professional's board appointment details.
- If an email of the applicant was provided in the application submitted by the Treating Specialist of the person, the applicant will also receive an email. The applicant needs to confirm or reschedule the appointment in case another appointment date is requested.
- Alternatively, if the application is rejected, the applicant is served with a letter citing the rejection reason.

5. Interview Process:

- During the interview, the inter-professional board members evaluate the applicant's disability through the practice of the ICF Questionnaire.
- Each medical board member approves or rejects the submission, by authenticating with their own e-ID.

6. Approval or Rejection and Assessment:

- Upon approval from all medical board members, the Department proceeds with the finalising assessment of the application.
- The applicant receives a letter at their postal address, which will include the relevant payment dates and the payment rate for the allowance.
- Otherwise, if the inter-professional board rejects the application, the applicant is notified by means of a rejection letter at their postal address citing the reason for rejection.

7. How to Access and Fill in the Medical Report:

- Click <u>here</u> to access and fill in the online Medical Report or enter the URL in the web broswer: medrep-disability.gov.mt
- Alternatively, you can access the application through <u>myHealth</u> portal by selecting 'Medical Practitioner Reports - Social Security' under Useful External Links.