



NYCERS Update

District Council 37 Presentation

March 2, 2026





The Disability Retirement Process

Timeframes for processing may vary on a case-by-case basis.

1



NYCERS Member/Agency files a Disability retirement application (preferably online)

2



If all eligibility requirements (timely filed, accident reports received) and there is medical evidence submitted with the application. Case is reviewed by Medical Board for scheduling

3



If no medical evidence is submitted the client is notified to submit medical documentation. If accident reports or payroll information is required from the agency, these are requested from the agency.

6



Based on the decision by the Medical Board the client will either information about the Medical Board's determination and next steps.

5



A member will be interviewed and examined by the Medical Board physicians to determine disability and approval or denial of the disability retirement application.

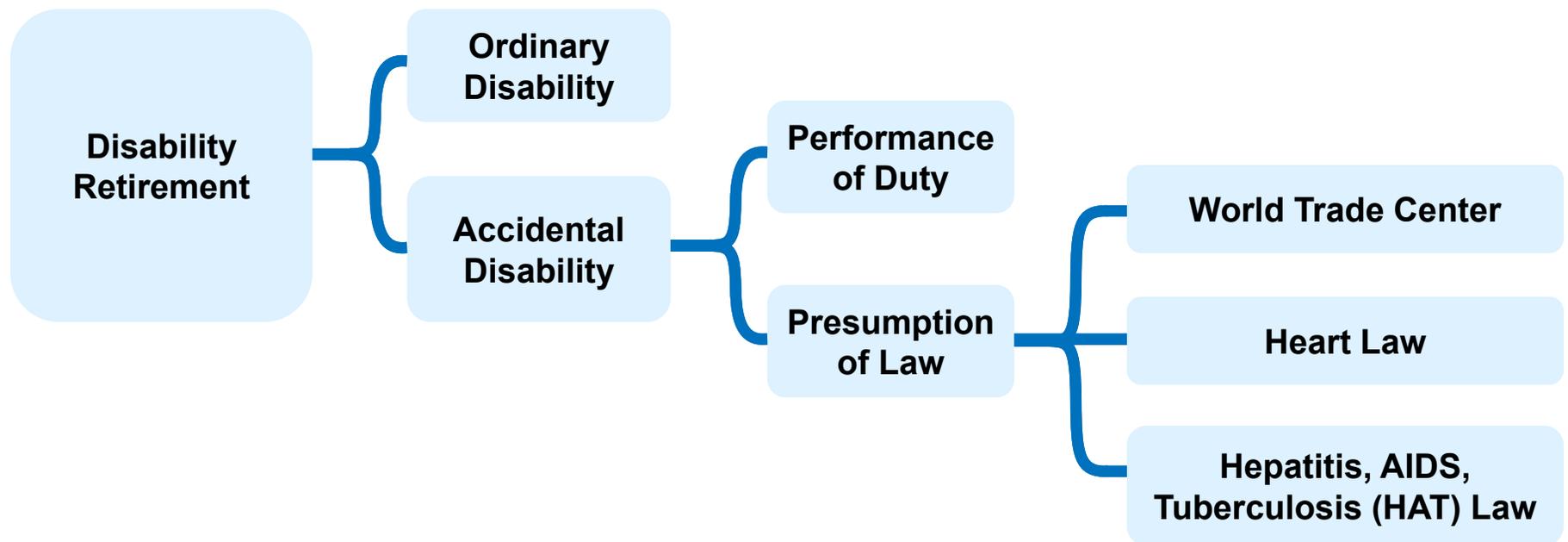
4



Once the Medical Board determines that there is sufficient documentation for scheduling and all other documents are received. The case is scheduled for a Medical Board appointment.



Disability Retirement Sections



Before Applying for Disability Retirement

Applicants must confirm they:

- ✓ Have met the eligibility requirements for the type of Disability Retirement they are applying for
- ✓ Are filing Disability Retirement application, EITHER:
 - While on payroll, OR
 - Within 90 days from the last day paid, OR
 - While on an approved medical leave or on Workers' Compensation, OR
 - Within 12 months of termination from employer AND was on an approved medical leave prior to termination
- ✓ Have Supporting Medical Evidence and/or evidence of accident claims



How You Can Help

Remind your members that they can file Disability Retirement benefits:

- **Online via MyNYCERS:**
(Fastest way to file)
Register at mynycers.org
- **Mail** to 335 Adams Street (Suite 2300), Brooklyn NY 11201 (ATT: Disability Retirement Services Division)
- **On site:** Make an appointment to receive service on site.



Submitting an Application

What to submit?

- **Medical Evidence:** Submit all medical documents that support the claim for disability.
- **Other-than-Medical Evidence:** Submit additional documents that are not medical, but which support the disability application as soon it is possible to do so. Examples: Physician's Reports, Power Of Attorney (POA) documents, if applicable.

When to submit?

As soon as at the time of application, or at the earliest time they can obtain the documents from a medical provider.

How to submit?



Upload online via a secure MyNYCERS account, by mail, in person (by appointment) or via fax.



Disability Application Support

Case Management

Each applicant is assigned a Case Manager that will serve as a point of contact and support through the application process.



Proactive Outreach

- Reminds applicants of forms or documents that are needed
- Reminds applicants of appointments
- Check ins and periodic status updates



Support

Available to answer questions and clarify applicant's understanding of the process and what is expected of them



Follow Through

Notify members of the determinations by the Medical Board

The NYCERS Medical Board (1 of 2)

Consists of up to 24 independent physicians appointed by:

- NYCERS' Board of Trustees;
- NYC Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene; or
- NYC Commissioner of Citywide Administrative Services



**Medical Board
panel of three
physicians:**



**Reviews all
medical
evidence
submitted**



**Conducts its own
interviews and/or
physical examinations
of applicants**



**Prepares reports of their
recommendations to
NYCERS' Board of Trustees
for consideration and
ratification**

The NYCERS Board of Trustees

Consists of union and city representatives

- Presides over and votes on disability appeal case presentations
- Cannot overturn the Medical Board on a disability recommendation by NYCERS
- Formally ratifies approval and denial calendar of applications

NYCERS' Board of Trustees' ratification, a member can appeal a **denial** determination where the member is found disabled, but NOT due to:

- Accident
- Injury (where applicable)
- Causation
- The presumption has been rebutted by competent evidence



Options for Reconsideration

Refer Back

Before Board of Trustees ratification or before an appeal is scheduled before the Board of Trustees, members have one opportunity to submit additional medical evidence within 30 days of the Medical Board Report release. Based on the additional medical evidence, the Medical Board may issue a new determination.

Renew

After Board of Trustee ratification, members have 60 days to renew their application by submitting additional evidence. Renewal does not permit members to introduce new conditions or new incidents. Members may only make two requests for renewal.

Refile*

Members must still be eligible to file a disability application under the applicable statute. This is treated as an entirely new application and members may apply for new conditions and new incidents.

*Applicants for WTC reclassification are not eligible to renew because they are always eligible to refile.



Options for Appeal

Final Medical Review

If applicable to the specific title, request a Final Medical Review (FMR):

- Members meet with a panel of three Independent Medical Examiners to review the medical evidence already submitted
- Final Medical Review determination is final and binding
- Members who request a Final Medical Review cannot file an Article 78 if denied in the FMR process
- The City and Unions cover an equal proportion of the cost for Final Medical Review examination

Article 78

- Appeal in Court by filing an Article 78

*Applicants for WTC reclassification are not entitled to Final Medical Review





Approval of Disability Benefits

The time frame for the issuance of the Option Letter varies on a case-by-case basis.



Member initially receives a portion of their pension (Partial Payment or Advanced Payment) until their case is finalized.

- **Partial Payment begins** in the same month as retirement, if the retirement date falls on the 1st or 2nd of the month
- Partial Payment begins in the month after retirement, if the retirement date falls on or after the 3rd of the month



Service credit, Required Amount and the Final Average Salary (FAS) calculations are the three components used to determine the actual pension to produce the **Option Letter** with the final benefit calculations available to the retiree.



The retiree selects a final option benefit.

The **disability benefit is finalized**, unless NYCERS has to suspend checks because a retiree has not responded to deficits, the Option Letter, etc.





Thank You!