THOMAS CULLEE MAYES, JR.

How a Social Security Disability Attorney Can Benefit a Medical Practice

If the Social Security Administration determines a patient is disabled, there are several tangential benefits for his physician's practice:

- Every successful applicant receives medical insurance coverage, so the physician has a paying patient for the duration of his disability;
- The health care provider may be eligible to recover fees for providing services in the past; and
- All necessary procedures the patient may need in the future will be covered by insurance.

If a doctor believes she has a patient that might be eligible for Social Security Disability benefits, she should:

1. Recommend that the patient apply for Social Security Disability benefits with the help of a qualified attorney.
2. Perform procedures that objectively affirm the patient's disability, as a medical opinion without supporting evidence will not suffice to the Social Security Administration.
3. Indicate the patient's functional limitations in a letter or note in the patient's medical records.

The Social Security Administration defines disability as functional limitations that prevent a person from working. For an application to be approved, the Social Security Administration must determine that, because of a medical condition, an individual cannot perform the work she did before the onset of her medical condition AND that the individual cannot adjust to other work because of her medical condition. The disability must last for one year or result in death and must be a total disability for the application to be successful.

The type of Social Security coverage a patient will seek will depend on that patient's particular situation. There are two types of benefits available to disabled patients:

- **Title II Social Security Disability Benefits** are available to patients who have worked long enough, and contributed enough money to the Social Security program. Title II benefits are available only to adults and are not means-tested. If a patient is awarded Title II benefits, she will qualify for Medicare coverage after a waiting period.
- **Title XVI Supplemental Security Income Benefits** are available regardless of work history. However, Title XVI benefits are means-tested. If a patient is awarded Title XVI benefits, he will qualify for Medicaid coverage from the date of disability.

6550 Shady Brook Lane #316 Dallas, TX 75206 (210) 215-2386 tjmayes@gmail.com