

I am unable to work because of injuries to my right arm arising from a fall on _____, 2013, as well as long standing inflammatory (rheumatoid arthritis) which affects joints in my upper and lower extremities. In addition I experience significant side effects including nausea, fatigue and grogginess from prescribed medication.

These medical conditions, in their aggregate, leave me without the functional capacity to reliably perform even a simple, entry-level job.

I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis over twenty (20) years ago. Rheumatoid arthritis is a form of inflammatory arthritis which causes swelling, bone deformity, degradation of connective tissues, and chronic pain. In my case, I have extensive deformity and loss of function in my right (dominant) hand and wrist and in my left (non-dominant) hand and wrist. I have lost all capacity for fine motor manipulation lasting more than 3 to 5 minutes. I cannot grip small or large objects, operate a computer keyboard, write with a pen or pencil or lift objects weighing as little as 5 lbs. Repetitive motion is impossible with my right hand due to the rheumatoid arthritis. Even with constant breaks, my capacity to use my right hand and arm for fine or gross motor activities is less than one hour in an eight hour workday.

The rheumatoid arthritis also impacts my knee and ankle joints. More specifically I experience swelling and severe pain if I attempt to walk more than 30 feet. I cannot stand or walk for more than 15 minutes at a time, and no more than 2 hours total during an eight hour workday.

The rheumatoid arthritis has caused a degradation of the joints in my hips, bilaterally, such that I cannot sit for more than 15 minutes at a time, and no more than 2 hours total during a workday.

Medicine prescribed to treat my rheumatoid arthritis, including ____, ____, and ____, moderate the pain slightly but cause significant drowsiness and nausea. I frequently experience an upset stomach and I have been diagnosed with GERD and irritable bowel syndrome. On a typical day, I must use the restroom to move my bowels at least every ____ hours, with the urge to go to the restroom occurring suddenly and without warning.

I spend most days in a reclined position on a sofa or reclining chair, near a restroom. I find that I do better when I can stay in a controlled environment.

In addition to the rheumatoid arthritis, I suffer from Sjogren's Syndrome which causes my eyes to remain dry and gritty. When reading or viewing my computer screen, my eyes become fatigued quickly and I must use physician prescribed eye drops hourly.

A complication of my chronic pain condition is depression and I have been treating with psychiatrist _____ for ____ years. I can no longer participate in activities with my family or friends and I tend to isolate myself for weeks at a time.

On _____, I fell during a snowstorm and shattered my right arm and humerus, for which I underwent surgery. I had a second surgery on _____, 2014 to remove pins, plates and bone chips and to release adhesions. What little function I had in my right upper extremity

has been greatly reduced by the after-effects of this fall and my doctor tells me that I should not expect much improvement in functioning.

Although I am motivated to work - and I have worked since I was 19 years old, at the present time, I do not have the capacity to perform even the simplest work task for more than one to two hours total during a workday.