

UDID Card Eligibility and Multiple Sclerosis

Under India's RPwD Act, 2016, there are 21 recognized disability categories, including *physical, sensory, intellectual, neurological, and mental* conditions[1]. Multiple sclerosis (MS) is classified under "chronic neurological conditions," so PwDs with MS *are* eligible to apply[1]. However, to qualify for any disability certificate (and thus a UDID), the **disability must be certified as $\geq 40\%$ by a government medical board**[2]. In practice this means a detailed assessment of your condition. Invisible symptoms like fatigue, pain or weakness (common in MS) were historically undervalued, but **updated guidelines (Mar 2024)** now explicitly account for chronic pain and fatigue in disability evaluations[3]. In summary, even if your symptoms are "invisible," you can apply – but you need medical documentation showing they cause $\geq 40\%$ impairment.

- **Categories:** UDID covers all RPwD Act categories, including neurological (MS, Parkinson's), mental illness, intellectual disability, etc. It is *not* only for physical/locomotor disabilities[1].
- **Assessment Threshold:** An applicant must have at least 40% disability as per government assessment[2]. This percent is calculated by the medical board based on functional impairments. Even if you walk unaided, other MS-related impairments (weakness, sensory loss, etc.) can contribute to the disability percentage.

Applying for a Disability Certificate (UDID)

To apply, you typically must submit an application (online via the UDID portal or offline at a designated hospital) and then **undergo a medical assessment**. In practice:

- **Application:** Register on the UDID portal or visit the local CMO/DCMHO (Chief Medical Officer) office. Submit basic details, photo, and ID/address proofs (e.g. Aadhaar, voter ID)[4]. This becomes your UDID application.
- **Documents to Carry:** Bring your UDID application plus: a valid **photo ID, address proof, age proof, and current medical reports** related to your condition[4][5]. In particular, carry all relevant **diagnostic reports (MRI, lab tests, specialist's letter)** that detail your MS (or other condition). These documents will be verified by the medical board[5]. Also carry extra passport-size photos and any previous disability certificate if you have one.
- **Medical Assessment:** Once you submit the application, the CMO office assigns **specialist doctors** to examine you (e.g. a neurologist for MS)[6]. The specialist evaluates your functional limitations (mobility, strength, sensation, coordination, etc.) and writes an opinion. A **medical board/panel** (often at a government hospital) then reviews the case and officially assigns a disability percentage and issues the certificate[6]. The board typically includes at least three doctors (e.g. surgeon, neurologist, physician).
- **If Bedridden:** If you are bedridden and cannot travel, mention this when applying. Recent government instructions allow *assessment at your treating hospital* if travel is impossible[7]. You should contact the local medical board or CMO in advance; they may

arrange special assessment or advise on home visits. In any case, the law expects PwDs to reach the assessment center, but accommodations (like proxy/family help or hospital-based assessment) are sometimes arranged.

UDID Card Benefits and Rights

Having a UDID/disability certificate **should benefit you, not harm you**. Under law, persons with disabilities are entitled to protections, and there is strict non-discrimination in employment[8]. In practice:

- **Job Security:** The RPwD Act mandates that disability *cannot be a barrier* for jobs for which you are otherwise qualified[8]. Employers (especially government bodies) must make reasonable accommodations. Holding a UDID/certificate actually enables you to claim reserved quotas (if eligible) and accommodations, rather than impede employment. A recent High Court ruling reaffirmed that PwDs who can perform the job *cannot be rejected* just due to minor impairments[8].
- **Document Convenience:** The UDID card centralizes your disability information. You won't need to carry multiple certificates; the UDID card holds your details and QR-encoded info[9]. This single card is recognized pan-India for availing disability benefits[9].
- **Government Schemes & Concessions:** The UDID links you to various entitlements. For example, you are eligible for rail travel concessions via the EPICS (E-Ticketing Photo Identity Card for Specially-Abled) card. You can apply online for EPICS using your UDID/certificate[10]. Once issued, EPICS lets you book tickets at concessional rates[10][11]. Similarly, many state and central programs (pension schemes, tax rebates, free medical care) require a valid disability certificate – having a UDID simplifies accessing them.
- **Medical and Medication Use:** The UDID itself is *not* a prescription and does not directly dispense medication. However, presenting it at government hospitals or pharmacies can help you access any available schemes or discounts for PwDs. For instance, some states provide free or subsidized medication/treatment for PwDs, and having a UDID helps establish your eligibility. Always carry your UDID (or certificate) when obtaining services to ensure you receive any entitled benefits.

Disability Pensions and Financial Assistance

Beyond the UDID card itself, disabled individuals may qualify for **government financial aid**:

- **Disability Pension:** Many states and the central government offer pensions for PwDs. For example, Delhi's "Subsistence Allowance" scheme grants ₹2,500/month to eligible disabled residents (age 0–60) with $\geq 40\%$ disability[12]. Eligibility requires income criteria and residence proof[12][13]. Similar schemes exist in other states and at the national level (e.g. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension for BPL persons with $\geq 80\%$ disability). To apply, you need your UDID/certificate, proof of age, residence, and

income. Submit at the Social Welfare or Women & Child Welfare department of your state.

- **Other Assistive Benefits:** The **ADIP Scheme** (Govt. of India) provides free assistive devices (wheelchairs, hearing aids, etc.) to needy PwDs[14]. You can apply through recognized NGOs or government centers; UDID helps prove eligibility. The Accessible India and DDRS schemes also fund rehabilitative aids and educational scholarships. These are *not direct cash*, but they relieve expenses by providing equipment.
- **Grants and Subsidies:** Through the National Fund for PwDs, one-time financial grants are occasionally provided for training, marriage, or housing adaptation. Eligibility varies; keep an eye on announcements from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment or your state Social Welfare Department.

Certificate Validity and Renewal

Disability certificates/UDID cards can be **permanent** or **temporary**, depending on your condition[15]:

- **Permanent Disability:** If your condition is non-progressive (unlikely to change), the board may issue a permanent certificate and UDID. In this case, the certificate is valid for life[16], and you do *not* need to renew it annually or every few years.
- **Temporary or Progressive Conditions:** For conditions like MS that can change over time, boards often give a *temporary certificate* valid up to 5 years[16]. You *do not* fill a new form each year; instead, you must renew the certificate once its validity (usually 5 years) is about to expire. This involves re-applying and getting reassessed by the medical board. While renewal can be cumbersome, it is the current procedure for progressive disabilities[16]. Keep track of your expiry date and reapply a few months in advance to avoid gaps.

Handling Application Issues and Tracking

- **If Denied or Rejected:** If your UDID application or certificate is declined, the medical board should ideally provide reasons (e.g. “disability <40%”). If no reason is given, ask the CMO office in writing. You may *reapply* with additional documentation or get a second opinion at another authorized board. If you believe the decision was unfair or incorrect, you can escalate through official channels. For example, you may write to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment or use the government grievance portal. (Legally, unresolved disputes can be taken up with DoPT and Social Justice Ministry as indicated by legal advisories[17].)
- **Rejection Letter:** The UDID portal (or local CMO) should issue a rejection letter if your application fails. Check if your state’s UDID website has a download option, or ask the issuing authority. You can then correct any deficiencies and apply again. There is generally no rule against reapplying; if your situation changes (e.g. symptoms worsen), a new application is possible.

- **Checking Status:** You can track your UDID application status online via the UDID portal (using your application number) or by contacting the CMO's office where you applied[18]. The portal also sends updates by SMS/email. If applying offline, physically follow up at the hospital's Disability Certification center.

Sources: Government UDID/Disability Act information and credible analyses[6][19][8][20][15][10][12]. These outline eligibility, benefits, procedures, and legal rights of persons with disabilities in India.

[1] [2] [4] [5] [19] How to Apply for a Disability Certificate in India: Step-by-Step Guide

<https://www.robobionics.in/blog/how-to-apply-for-a-disability-certificate-in-india-step-by-step-guide/>

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[6] [9] [18] Unique Disability ID| National Portal of India

<https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/unique-disability-id>

[8] Those with disability who can do the work can't be rejected: HC | Madurai News - Times of India

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[10] [11] Ministry of Railways | National Government Services Portal

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[12] [13] Schemes and facilities for Persons with Disabilities | Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

<https://discomm.delhi.gov.in/discomm/schemes-and-facilities-persons-disabilities>

[14] ADIP | Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) | Home | India

<https://depwd.gov.in/en/adip/>

[15] [16] [17] Temporary and permanent udid - Legal advice on Human Rights - 64975

<https://www.vidhikarya.com/FreeLegalAdvice/64975/temporary-and-permanent-udid>

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