



How to file your disability claim

Policy #

Policyholder name

STEP 1

Learn when to file your claim

There may be times when you know you will be taking time off, such as a scheduled surgery or a planned maternity leave. If you know the date your time away from work due to a disability will begin, please let us know ahead of time. If your disability is unplanned, please contact us as soon as possible.

First Symetra also offers leave under the New York Disability Law (NY DBL) and is fully compliant with the NY DBL claim processes. NY DBL integrates with any short-term disability benefit paid by us. For more information, please contact your Human Resources representative.

STEP 2

Collect the following information

- Your contact information and Social Security number.
- Your job title and date of hire.
- Your group policy number (listed above).
- Your condition—whether you are out of work due to illness, injury or pregnancy.
- Your attending physician’s name and telephone and fax numbers.

STEP 3

Contact First Symetra to start your claim



www.symetra.com/myGO

- Click on “Start My Claim”
- Select claim type (absence) from the drop-down list
- Enter all required information
- Add any notes or comments
- Submit form



1-877-377-6773

Please call between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. A customer service representative will initiate your claim and assign it to a Case Manager.

Once your claim intake is completed—either online or by phone—your Case Manager will call you within two business days to conduct a brief interview and will work with you throughout your period of disability.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is pregnancy included in my disability benefits?

Yes, pregnancy is treated like any other disabling condition, therefore eligible for short- and/or long-term disability income benefits.

What do I need to submit for a pregnancy-related disability?

The disability must be certified by a physician or midwife via medical records. If you become disabled before the expected date of birth, or for a duration beyond the usual postpartum recovery period (six weeks for vaginal delivery, eight weeks for C-section), First Symetra will need supporting medical documentation from your treating physician(s).

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) allows me to take up to 12 weeks of leave if I meet eligibility requirements. Do I receive disability benefits during this time away?

The FMLA allows employees to take reasonable unpaid leave for certain family and medical reasons. It is considered job protection and does not provide income replacement. Unlike FMLA, short- and/or long-term disability income insurance provides partial income replacement when you are unable to work due to a disabling condition. Please contact your Human Resources representative for your company's specific definition of disability.

What happens after I submit my disability claim?

First Symetra will contact your employer to confirm information regarding your employment. We will schedule an initial interview with you to discuss your claim and may request further medical, occupational and/or financial information. After this call, we will send status correspondence outlining any outstanding issues and make periodic contact with you and other sources for updates.

How often will I receive benefits?

If you qualify, short-term disability income benefits are typically paid on a weekly basis after the applicable elimination period. Some employers self-pay their short-term disability income benefits and may use a different frequency of payment. For those eligible, long-term disability income benefits usually begin after short-term disability coverage ends and are paid on a monthly basis at the end of each monthly cycle.

What if my claim is denied?

First Symetra sends an explanation letter along with instructions on how to file an appeal if you disagree with our decision. Once we receive additional information to support your original claim, the Case Manager will conduct a review. If the Case Manager finds that the new documentation supports re-opening your claim, we will do so. If no new information is sent with the appeal, or if the original decision is upheld, the file will be assigned to an Appeals Specialist for further review.

What happens when I return to work?

Please notify First Symetra as soon as possible. Your Case Manager will ask for a release form that is signed and dated by your attending physician with any restrictions and limitations noted. Once this is received, we will contact your employer to confirm a return-to-work date.

What if I am on disability, but able to return to work part-time?

First Symetra will work with you and your employer to develop a rehabilitation plan that focuses on your current abilities and expected recovery. If accommodations can be made, a plan will be developed that allows you to return to work. This coordinated effort can help you get back to work and, in certain circumstances, grant a financial benefit while you gradually increase your work capacity.

Note: If you are given a work release from your physician, notify us immediately to help prevent your claim from being overpaid.

To check on the status of your claim

Contact First Symetra at **1-877-377-6773 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday)** or access your account online at **www.symetra.com/myGO** and:

- 1. Register as a new user.** After you've been contacted by your Case Manager, complete the New User Registration steps on the main page.
- 2. Log in to your account.** Once you've registered, you can log in to your account to view/search your claim data, arrange for direct deposit on short-term disability benefits, check on benefit payments, download forms and more.



New York, NY

Mailing address: P.O. Box 34690, Seattle, WA 98124

www.symetra.com/ny

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This is a brief description of some claim procedures that may apply to your First Symetra Group Disability Income Insurance policy. It is not intended to become part of your plan nor does it replace the information or benefits contained in the policy. If there is any conflict between the provisions in this document and the policy, the policy will prevail. For a complete description of coverage, contact your Human Resources department.

Group insurance policies are insured by First Symetra National Life Insurance Company of New York, New York, NY. Mailing address: P.O. Box 34690, Seattle, WA 98124.