

<b>Program Information: Driver Evaluation Program</b>
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### **What is involved in the Driver Evaluation?**

The Driver Evaluation generally involves a **two-part assessment** depending on the client's abilities and diagnosis. Results of the evaluation, including recommendations are sent to the client's family physician and/or referring physician. *Results cannot be sent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles without the client's consent.*

### **In-clinic Assessment**

The first part of the assessment takes place in the hospital. It ranges from 1-1 ½ hours in length and family members are encouraged to attend.

This includes:

- Client completes a questionnaire
- An initial interview
  - Client's driving history (license status, experience, violations, vehicle)
  - Client's medical history
  - Client's current medication (some medications can impact driving)
  - Confirmation of client's visual status (vision test may be requested)
  - Client's driving routine (city/rural/highway, daily, night/day)
  - Client or family concerns with client's driving
- Physical Assessment
  - Manual Muscle Testing
  - Range of Motion
  - Reaction time (lower extremity)
  - Sensation/ Proprioception testing
- Cognitive Assessment (assessments administered vary)
  - Mini Mental Status Examination
  - Useful Field of View
  - Cognistat (block design)
  - Trails Test A & B
  - Sunnybrook Bedside Neglect
  - Motor Free Visual Perceptual Test
  - Road Signs Recognition Test

- Determination of adaptive aids (if required)
  - Steering device: Spinner knob
  - Left foot gas pedal
  - Hand controls
  - Adaptation to vehicle (i.e., ramps for vehicle, modified van)
- Determination of further assessment or plan of action
  - On-road assessment (OT goes with client and driving school)
  - On-road assessment through Registry of Motor Vehicles
  - Refer to Registry of Motor Vehicles medical review board
  - Driving Simulator session
  - Further testing (i.e., neuropsychological, visual field)

### **On-Road Assessment**

The second part of the assessment involves taking the client on-road to determine their potential for driving. This generally takes place during a second visit, although may be arranged on the same day as the in-clinic assessment, if appropriate and necessary.

- The client must have a license (temporary license, current valid license or a beginner's license) in order to complete the on-road assessment. The OT in the Driver Evaluation Program can request a temporary license for those clients whose license has been suspended for medical reasons.
- A temporary license *cannot* be obtained for those clients whose license has been suspended for non-medical reasons (i.e., unpaid fines, driving under the influence)
- Driving Assessment takes place in Halifax (different routes for those who drive in the city versus rural driving)
- OT, client and driving instructor participate in the assessment
- Client uses Driving School's vehicle (dual brake car, automatic transmission)
- Certain adaptive aids can be tried (left foot gas pedal, spinner knob)
- Assessment takes approximately 40 minutes
- Assessment is NOT the same as the Registry of Motor Vehicles test