



Please don't request testing if someone

- » Isn't able to make good judgments,
- » Lacks the ability to reason and make decisions,
- » Doesn't have acceptable visual processing speed,
- » Has poor mobility of the lower extremities,
- » Can't turn their neck and head to check blind spots and traffic,
- » Is unable to hold the steering wheel with both hands to maintain control.

Please understand that we can take no action based on a phone call.

RESTRICTED LICENSE

Mobility and the importance individuals place on their driver license is a sensitive issue. If a person is deemed medically safe to drive under certain conditions, restricted licenses are available through the recommendation of the MD, DO, PA-C or APNP, from a DMV test, from a medical review board or by a vision specialist.

Some examples of restricted licenses include daylight driving only, driving within a 5-mile radius from home, driving within the city limits, continuous oxygen use required, or no freeway or interstate highway driving.

Restrictions that are not enforceable are: "Must check blood sugars before driving", "No driving in bad weather", "No driving when traffic is busy". We also cannot license a person with "can only drive with spouse in front seat". A person must be able to drive safely alone to be eligible to drive. Recommendations to modify or remove established restrictions may also be made by medical professionals. Some restrictions can be added or removed by a road test.

HIPAA/LIABILITY

For purposes of sharing medical information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), DMV is considered a public health entity. DMV is the state agency responsible for public health matters relating to the monitoring of drivers who may be ineligible for driving privileges because of a disease or disability resulting in a cognitive or functional impairment that affects the driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

The medical information contained in the reports is confidential and shall only be used to determine the qualification of a person to safely operate a motor vehicle, and for taking any action deemed necessary by DMV. The protected health information submitted or requested is the minimum necessary to accomplish this purpose.

MDs, DOs, PA-Cs and APNPs are protected from liability for reporting drivers who could be a potential highway safety risk to the Department per Wisconsin Statute 448.03.

REQUEST A SPEAKER

If you are interested in receiving more information on reporting medically impaired drivers to DMV, we are happy to come to your organization or business.

HELPFUL LINKS

Physician's Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers
www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/olddrive/OlderDriversBook/

Medical Conditions and Driving: A Review of the Literature 1960–2000
www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/Medical_Condition_Driving/pages/Apdx-Acknow.htm

National Institute on Aging- Age Page Older Drivers
www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/older-drivers

MORE INFORMATION

Wisconsin DOT Division of Motor Vehicles Medical Review Unit
Email: dvmmedical@dot.wi.gov
Telephone: (608) 266-2327
Fax: (608) 267-0518
Web: wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drvs/mdcl-cncrns/med-concerns



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Be Safe, Not Sorry



WISCONSIN LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULE GIVE MDs, DOs, PA-Cs AND APNPs THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE IF SOMEONE IS MEDICALLY SAFE TO DRIVE.

This brochure provides information to medical professionals on the current processes in place for reporting older and medically impaired drivers with regular (class D) driver licenses. Commercial licensing standards are not addressed in this brochure.

Currently, reporting is not mandatory in Wisconsin. However, we depend on medical professionals to report drivers to us for further licensing actions to keep the highways safe for everyone.



POINTS TO CONSIDER

- » Wisconsin issues 8-year licenses for all drivers.
- » There are no additional or different requirements based on age.
- » All drivers are required to renew in-person and to have their vision screened.

REASONS FOR LICENSE CANCELLATION

Wisconsin does not determine licensing eligibility based on any specific diagnoses alone. DMV has the authority to require drivers with progressive, recurring or debilitating conditions such as Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, COPD, CHF, Epilepsy, Schizophrenia, Early Dementia and Diabetes requiring insulin to submit periodic medical reports to the department as a condition of licensure.

A driver license will be cancelled if

- » A physician, DO, PA-C or APNP indicate on a medical report that a person is not stable following their treatment program, or the condition is likely to be accompanied by a syncope or collapse,
- » Side effects of medication interfere with safe driving,
- » There is medical evidence that the person uses drugs or alcohol to an extent that has an adverse affect on a medical condition or treatment.

A person cannot drive for 3 months after any episode of altered consciousness or loss of bodily control caused by a neurological condition, and there are no exceptions to this rule.

An MD, DO, PA-C or APNP can determine that a driver is not safe to be driving, report it to the Department, and it results in immediate cancellation of the license. If the person's condition improves, new medical information can be sent to the department at any time for licensing consideration.

VISION

Any driver with visual acuity of 20/50 in the best eye and a progressive condition, such as diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, cataracts, or glaucoma is required to submit periodic vision reports as a condition of licensure. The level of acuity determines the time period for follow-up. When visual acuity reaches 20/70–20/100 in the best eye, the person is required to complete a re-examination with the department at every acuity change (20/70, 20/80 and 20/100). The person is only required to test once at that acuity level unless a physician recommends it, or the examiner has identified other functional impairments.

Anyone with horizontal temporal field of vision less than 70 degrees in both eyes may be required to complete a re-examination as well.

Anyone with vision less than 20/100 in the best eye or less than 20 degrees horizontal temporal field of vision in the center in the best eye is also not eligible for licensing with no exceptions (corrected or uncorrected).



REPORTING SOMEONE

An MD, DO, PA-C or APNP can report a medically impaired driver directly to the Medical Review Unit. Although you may wish to use our Driver Condition and Behavior Report form or MV3141, it is not required. What is needed in writing is the driver's name, date of birth, diagnosis and why you feel the driver is no longer safe to operate a motor vehicle.

Once we receive that, we can take immediate licensing action and notify the driver. If you are unsure if the person is safe to drive, you can send that information to us as well, and we will conduct a re-examination with the driver.

Please keep in mind that we cannot test someone that a medical professional has documented as "unsafe", as that would endanger the safety of the driver license examiner and the general public. Examiners do not have the ability to control the vehicle in the event of a dangerous maneuver or action.