

DRIVER EVALUATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Can I Still Drive?

The Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation developed downstate Illinois' first program aimed at helping individuals maintain their driving independence.

How do I know if I need this evaluation?

A number of experiences and symptoms may indicate a need to evaluate your driving skills. These may include, but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Decreased sensitivity and speed of responses
- ▶ Increased trouble seeing well at dawn, dusk and at night
- ▶ Increased difficulty with sensitivity to and recovery from glare
- ▶ Feeling confused or disoriented
- ▶ Difficulty in shifting eyes from something near to something far
- ▶ Diminished peripheral vision
- ▶ Shortened attention span or easy distraction
- ▶ Blurred/Double vision
- ▶ Difficulty differentiating foreground from background
- ▶ Trouble with judgment or decisions when driving
- ▶ Impulsiveness
- ▶ Eye/hand/foot coordination problems



The Driving Simulator measures reaction time.

What does the evaluation include?

The initial evaluation includes the following:

- ▶ Vision screening
- ▶ Passive/active range of motion
- ▶ Manual muscle testing
- ▶ Reaction time measurement
- ▶ Functional cognitive testing
- ▶ Ability to get into a vehicle and prepare to drive
- ▶ Decision-making skills

The initial evaluation takes approximately 3-4 hours. An on-the-road evaluation in the person's own car and in his own neighborhood may also be recommended.

For individuals who are physically challenged, the program helps determine the proper adaptive driving controls.

What can I expect to learn from this evaluation?

Participants can expect one of three findings:

- 1) You appear to be a likely candidate for driving.
- 2) You are not presently a candidate for driving, but with remedial training, you will likely be a candidate in six months to one year.
- 3) You do not appear to be a candidate for driving and remediation is not likely to help you become a candidate for driving.

Are additional therapy services available?

If the initial evaluation indicates more training is needed, the following services are available:

Occupational Therapy – this may include exercises to improve vision, concentration, or strength.

Small Scale Vehicle – is a modified golf cart equipped with adaptive driving controls recommended by the evaluator. If additional training is required for safe driving, your therapist may recommend this option.



What happens to my evaluation?

A detailed report of your results are sent to your prescribing physician to assist in objectively answering the question, “Can I still drive?”

Will my insurance cover the cost?

Most insurance companies generally cover this evaluation, but please check with your own insurance carrier if you have questions about coverage.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for the Driver Education and Training Program, you must:

- ▶ Meet the requirements for obtaining an operator’s license.
- ▶ Provide a recent Medical Examination Report that includes a physician’s statement regarding physical fitness for driving. These report forms can be obtained from IPMR.

Is a referral needed?

Yes, a doctor’s referral is required. Talk to your doctor about whether this evaluation is appropriate for you.

For more information:

For referral or additional information on IPMR’s Driver Evaluation and Training program, please call (309) 692-8670.

