

DRIVING

There will come a time when Dr. Turnbull will need to decide whether you are still safe to drive. Dr. Turnbull is LEGALLY obligated to let the Ministry of Transportation (MOT) know if and when you are no longer safe to drive. Several steps are involved in this process:

STEP ONE: Dr. Turnbull decides you are no longer safe to drive and sends a letter to the MOT. You will receive a letter from MOT indicating you are no longer able to drive unless you are reassessed by a driving rehabilitation center. You can choose to stop driving or to be reassessed. If you choose to be reassessed you will need to:

STEP TWO: request the ALS Clinic forward a referral on your behalf to a Ministry Approved Rehabilitation Driving Assessment Centre

STEP THREE: a driving assessment is booked. The assessment will take approximately 4 hours and will be performed by an OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (see attached notes on assessments). Once the assessment is complete vehicle adaptations (such as hand controls) will be prescribed by the occupational therapist (if necessary). A report of the evaluation is sent to you, the Ministry of Transportation and the referral source.

NOTE: there are many driver rehabilitation centers available that are knowledgeable in adaptive equipment and can train drivers on adaptive equipment. However, these centers are not obligated to complete a full medical assessment. The MOT WILL REQUIRE a full functional abilities assessment (which includes a medical assessment) when they know you have a medical condition preventing you from driving so please do not be persuaded by cheaper assessment costs or shorter tests.

STEP FOUR: if applicable the rehabilitation driving assessment center will send a referral/prescription to an installation company so adaptive equipment (such as hand controls) can be installed in your car.

STEP FIVE: once the equipment is installed some follow up training might be required with the driver assessment team to ensure you are able to drive with the new equipment.

STEP SIX: the driving assessment center will forward the assessment to MOT who will then decide whether or not further testing is required and/or reinstate your license.

THIS IS A LENGTHY PROCESS SO PLEASE DISCUSS DRIVING OPTIONS WITH DR. TURNBULL AND THE CLINIC TEAM BEFORE YOU ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO DRIVE. BOOKING ASSESSMENTS AND INSTALLING HAND CONTROLS TAKES TIME.

Driving Assessment

A driving assessment identifies a clients' ability to continue to drive, return to driving or learn to drive. The evaluation also helps to determine adaptive equipment needs and lesson requirements.

Driving Evaluation

- The evaluation is done by an OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST and is 4 hours long.
- First, clients meet in the clinic with the occupational therapist to gather medical and driving information. Physical, perceptual and thinking abilities for driving will be assessed.
- After a short break, driving performance will be assessed on the road with the instructor and the therapist. For safety reasons, all on-road evaluations occur in the instructor's car.
- **Please note: Clients will need to arrange for someone to drive you to your driver evaluation and pick you up afterwards.**

After the evaluation

- The therapist and instructor share their recommendations concerning your readiness to drive.
- If required, driver training can be arranged.
- Vehicle adaptations are prescribed when indicated and the ability to use the equipment has been demonstrated.
- A report of the evaluation is sent to you, the Ministry of Transportation and the referral sources.
- Information related to driving and alternative transportation is also available.

What needs to be considered to book an appointment?

- You should be medically stable and able to independently transfer into a car.
- If you have concerns about your vision or it has been a while since your last check-up, please have your eyes checked to ensure your vision meets Ministry of Transportation requirements.
- Make sure the Ministry of Transportation has received all requested / required medical reports from your physician(s) **before** you are referred.
- You must have a valid driver's license OR
- If your license is under medical suspension we must be able to arrange a permit from the Ministry of Transportation in order to participate.
- New drivers require a valid G1 license. Please contact your local Ministry of Transportation licensing office on what is required