Driver Rehabilitation Program - Client Information

WHAT IS A FUNCTIONAL DRIVING EVALUATION?

The Functional Driving Evaluation (FDE) is an evaluation by an Occupational Therapist (OT) to determine your ability to drive based on your medical condition(s) and resulting symptoms.

During the In-Clinic Evaluation, you will complete a number of tests and answer questions related to the following core driving skills: visual scanning, attention, perception, processing speed, awareness, memory and physical ability. This will take approximately 2 hours.

If you demonstrate sufficient core skills required to drive in the In-Clinic Evaluation, an On-Road Evaluation is typically completed on the same day. This takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete. The On-Road Evaluation is conducted with a qualified driving instructor in a dual controlled vehicle. The OT attends to assess the extent to which your medical condition(s) affect driving performance.

PLAN TO GET A RIDE TO THE CLINIC

Please arrange to have transportation on the evaluation day, both to and from the clinic. **PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE YOURSELF TO THE EVALUATION.** In the event you do not pass the Functional Driving Evaluation, the OT will request that someone else takes you home.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

- Your valid driver's license or a restricted driver's license – **You must bring this license with you**
- Any special footwear, braces, splints or mobility aids (i.e. crutches, wheelchair, prosthesis, etc.)
- Prescription eye wear used for reading as well as for driving (glasses and/or contact lens)
- A small snack or bag lunch

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

You will have received a letter from RoadSafetyBC directing you to complete a Functional Driving Evaluation and requiring you to have a Restricted Drivers License for the On-Road Evaluation. You must pick up a restricted Learner's license from ICBC PRIOR TO YOUR EVALUATION. This license is permitted by RoadSafetyBC – Driver Medical Fitness Program for the purpose of assessing medical fitness to drive. This license is ONLY valid for driving during the On-Road Evaluation and Driver Rehab Program. You cannot drive or practice driving with this restricted license.

Pick up your restricted license at least 2 weeks before your evaluation. Send a copy of the license by email to driving@communitytherapists.com or via fax: 604-681-8705, Attention: Driver Rehab at Community Therapists.

While at ICBC, if you are denied a restricted license, you must contact Community Therapists immediately: 604-681-9293 and speak to the driving service coordinator. You can also ask the ICBC service agent to call RoadSafetyBC and clarify what is preventing ICBC from releasing this license to you. RoadSafetyBC can be reached at 1-855-387-7747. The On-Road Evaluation can not be completed without a valid or restricted drivers' license.

WHAT ROLE DOES ROADSAFETYBC & ICBC HAVE IN THE FUNCTIONAL DRIVING EVALUATION?

Following an injury or illness, RoadSafetyBC (Driver Medical Fitness Program) may review your medical fitness to drive. In making decisions, they may review:

- Medical information submitted by your physician and other health care providers
- Functional Driving Evaluation Reports

- Driving record, including police records

Further information is available here

The Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) is the motor vehicle licensing agency in British Columbia and driver's licenses are obtained from the ICBC Driver's Services Centers. RoadSafetyBC gives ICBC permission to issue driver's licenses related to medical fitness to drive decisions.

DOES ROADSAFETYBC (RSBC) ALWAYS GET THE RESULTS OF THE FUNCTIONAL DRIVING EVALUATION (FDE)?

Yes - If RSBC has required that the driver complete the FDE (these drivers will have received a letter from RSBC instructing the driver to complete an FDE).

Yes – If following the FDE the OT recommends that the driver should not be driving or requires vehicle modifications to drive or other change to the driver's license (e.g. has a restricted/cancelled license).

No – If the driver has a valid license and is found to have functional driving skills following the FDE.

DOES MY DOCTOR OR NURSE PRACTITIONER GET THE RESULTS OF THE FUNCTIONAL DRIVING EVALUATION?

The OT will send a report outlining the results of the FDE and any recommendations to you, the doctor/nurse practitioner, and the funder, as outlined on the consent form. The report is also sent to RSBC when a change to your license is required. In the FDE report, the OT will make one of the following opinions:

- Client demonstrates functional driving skills
- Client requires adapted driving equipment to drive and requires restrictions added to driver's license
- Client is a candidate for Driver Rehabilitation to address core skills and compensatory strategies required for driving and/or when training on adapted driving equipment when indicated
- Client does not demonstrate functional driving skills and has been advised not to drive at this time
- Further medical investigations are recommended such as eye care specialist assessment

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

Prior to booking the Functional Driving Evaluation, Community Therapists requires you to review, sign and submit the following documents:

- Driver Rehabilitation Program Consent to Participate form
- Authorization for Release of Patient Information
- Confirmation of Payment or funding approval
- Provide a copy of your driver's license
- Provide a copy of any letters received from RoadSafetyBC

In addition, your physician/nurse practitioner will need to complete the:

- Functional Driving Evaluation Readiness Questionnaire

The relevant forms and additional information are included in the Referral Information Package. Once those completed forms are received, Community Therapists will contact you to schedule your appointment.

For more information, contact our Driver Rehabilitation Service Coordinator at (604) 681-9293 or driving@communitytherapists.com

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