Clinical Driver Evaluation

Driving a vehicle makes it easier to function within the community and in life, but when a driver lacks certain skills, serious safety risks may exist.

What is the purpose of a clinical driver evaluation?

Primary care providers are often asked to make decisions about a person's ability to drive. MercyOne’s Clinical Driver Evaluation will assess skills needed for safe driving and provide a summary of the test results with the referring provider.

Who is appropriate for this evaluation?

Driving becomes dangerous when an individual has problems with skills such as:

- Movement
- Thinking processes
- Visual perception
- Medical/driving history
- Physical abilities
  - Coordination
  - Muscle strength
  - Range of motion
  - Sensation
- Visual abilities
  - Depth perception
  - Visual acuity
  - Visual fields
- Thinking abilities
  - Divided attention
  - Memory
  - Problem solving
  - Road sign knowledge
  - Safety judgment
  - Selective attention

Impairments in these crucial skills may be a result of:

- Alzheimer's or dementia
- Arthritis
- Brain injury
- Diabetes
- Multiple sclerosis
- Spinal cord injury
- Stroke
- Other age-related conditions
- Road sign knowledge
- Safety judgment
- Selective attention

What is evaluated?

- Brake reaction time
- Medical/driving history
- Physical abilities
  - Coordination
  - Muscle strength
  - Range of motion
  - Sensation
- Visual abilities
  - Depth perception
  - Visual acuity
  - Visual fields
- Thinking abilities
  - Divided attention
  - Memory
  - Problem solving
  - Road sign knowledge
  - Safety judgment
  - Selective attention

What happens after the evaluation?

After the clinical driver evaluation is completed, you may need a behind-the-wheel assessment. There are different options available for this. A behind-the-wheel assessment may be completed through the Department of Motor Vehicles or through an independent company at an additional cost. We can provide you with resources if needed.

Payment

The clinical driver evaluation is not a Medicare-covered service. Other insurances may or may not cover this service, and any insurance filing is the responsibility of the client. You are required to pay at the time of the evaluation.

Scheduling an appointment

A referral from a physician is needed for a clinical driver evaluation. The evaluation will take approximately 1 ½ hours and will be performed by an occupational therapist with specialized training in driver assessment. The evaluation is performed at MercyOne Dubuque. It is a requirement that someone drive you to this appointment.

Physicians can fax a referral to 563-589-8200.

An appointment can be made by calling 563-589-9035.