Driver Rehabilitation Program - Client Information

What is the 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, which takes place in the morning, 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.

The On-Road evaluation is completed on the same day, if you pass the in-clinic evaluation; that is able to demonstrate sufficient core skills required to drive. This takes 1.5 hours and is conducted with a qualified driving instructor in a dual controlled vehicle. The OT attends to assess the extent to which skills deficits affect driving performance, and your ability to compensate for skill deficits while driving.

Plan to get a ride to the clinic

The evaluation is generally scheduled between 9:00am to 2:30pm with a one hour lunch break. It is recommended that you bring a bag lunch. Please arrange to have transportation provided on assessment day, even if you have a valid driver's license. In the event you do not pass the Functional Driving Evaluation, the OT will request that someone else drives you home. PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE YOURSELF TO THE EVALUATION. Both the in-clinic and the on-road evaluation take place from the clinic. A confirmation letter will be sent to you outlining the times for in-clinic and on-road assessment as well as address and directions.

What should I bring?

- A valid driver's license or a restricted driver's license
- 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 bag lunch or plan to visit one of the nearby restaurants within walking distance

What if I do not have a valid driver's license?

In order for you to participate in the FDE, you will require a restricted Learner's License by the RoadSafetyBC – Driver Medical Fitness Program. This license must be obtained at any ICBC Driver's Services Centre. Please pick up your restricted license at least 2 weeks before your evaluation and fax a copy of the license to 604-681-8705, Attention: America Rivera. If you are denied a restricted license, you must immediately request a Driver’s Abstract from the ICBC Driver’s Services Centre. This will tell you why they will not issue you a license. Please fax a copy of the Abstract to 604-681-8705, (Attention: America Rivera) so we can assist you.
What Role does RoadSafetyBC & ICBC have in the Functional Driver Evaluation?

The Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) is the motor vehicle licensing agency in British Columbia - driver’s licenses are obtained from the ICBC Driver’s Services Centers. RoadSafetyBC is separate from ICBC and is part of the Ministry of Justice. Following an injury or illness, RoadSafetyBC – Driver Medical Fitness Program reviews your medical fitness to drive (not ICBC) following review of information that may include:

- Medical information submitted by your physician and other health care providers
- Functional Driving Evaluation Report submitted by Community Therapists
- Driving record, including police records

After RoadSafetyBC has reviewed this information a letter will be sent informing you of their decision to grant, suspend or restrict your driver’s license. RoadSafetyBC may require you to complete an ICBC Road Test Re-Examination after you have completed the Functional Driving Evaluation; this is at their discretion. It may take up to 1 month for you to receive your letter from RoadSafetyBC. Further information is available at [http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/ospm/medical-fitness/index.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/ospm/medical-fitness/index.htm)

Does my doctor get the results of the Functional Driving Evaluation?

Yes. The OT will write a report outlining the results of the Functional Driving Evaluation including the OT’s recommendations. A copy of that report is sent to you, the doctor, RoadSafetyBC, the fee-payer and anyone else outlined on the consent form. The therapist will make one of the following opinions:

- Client demonstrates functional driving skills
- Client demonstrates functional driving skills but would benefit from driving lesson to address driving habits and/or to prepare for the ICBC road test
- Client is a candidate for driver rehabilitation
- Client does not demonstrate functional driving skills and should not drive at this time
- Further medical investigations are recommended i.e. eye care specialist assessment

What’s the next step?

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

- Driver Rehabilitation Program Consent to Participate form
- Authorization for Release of Patient Information
- Confirmation of Payment

In addition, your physician 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 please contact our service coordinator at (604) 681-9293 Ext. 1*