

On The Day of The Assessment

Please do not drive yourself to the assessment; have someone drive you or use alternate transportation.

- Please bring your driver's license. If you do not have a valid license, please let us know so we can arrange to have a temporary permit issued by Alberta Transportation for the assessment.
- If you need glasses for reading or driving, please bring them with you.
- The assessment will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to complete.

Assessment Information

There is a cost for the assessment as the assessment is not covered by healthcare. There is no extra charge if an in-car Evaluation is necessary. Veteran's Affairs may reimburse eligible clients for the assessment fee. Pre approval may be required. The fee is payable by cash, cheque, credit or debit.

Parking

Metered parking is available on 112 Street or across the street in the Edmonton General Hospital front parking lot.

After the Assessment

We strongly recommend that a client not drive until they have spoken to their physician about the results of the assessment.

- After the assessment, please make an appointment to see your doctor.
- Your results will be sent to your doctor usually within two working days after your assessment.
- If you require the results to be sent sooner, please call our office and let us know.

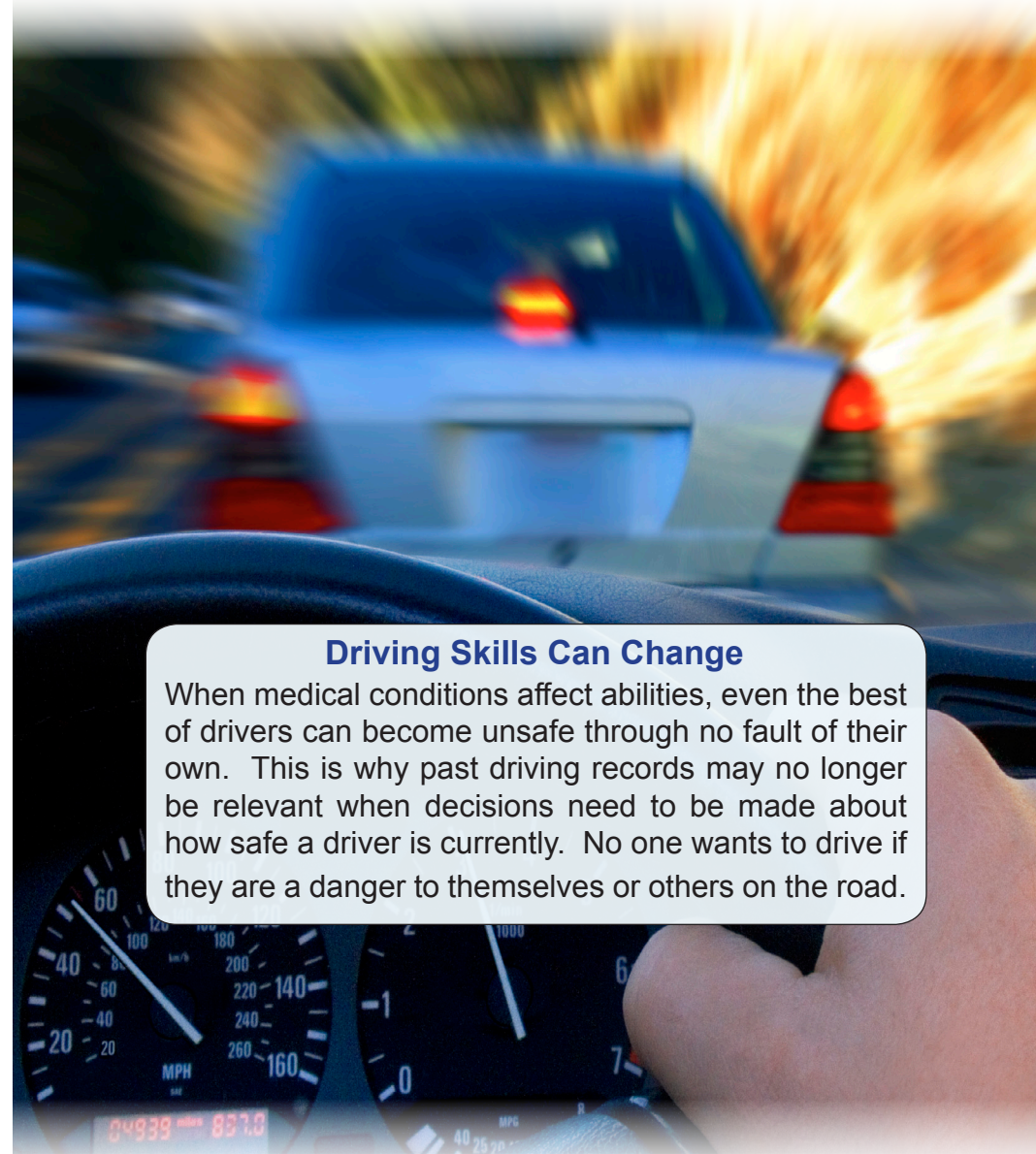
Who Makes Licensing Decisions?

Driving when you are medically impaired is taking a serious legal and financial risk. Only the Driver Fitness and Monitoring officials at Alberta Transportation can make the decision to suspend a driver's license. If a suspension decision is made, notification will be sent by registered mail.

What is the Law?

The law in Alberta is that all drivers must report any medical condition they have that might affect their ability to drive safely. These medical conditions must be reported to Alberta Transportation, Driver Fitness and Monitoring Branch (phone: 780-427-8230).

Failure to report your medical condition(s) may affect your insurance if you are in a crash.



Driving Skills Can Change

When medical conditions affect abilities, even the best of drivers can become unsafe through no fault of their own. This is why past driving records may no longer be relevant when decisions need to be made about how safe a driver is currently. No one wants to drive if they are a danger to themselves or others on the road.

Contact Us

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Appointment Time

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DriveABLE™

Red Flags & Warning Signs

- Stroke
- Heart disease
- Lung disease
- Medications
- Alzheimer disease, other dementias
- Head injury
- Functional concerns (memory loss, poor judgment, indecisiveness, disorientation or loss of strength, flexibility or balance)
- Driving concerns (crashes, tickets, getting lost, close calls, unaware of driving errors, driving slowly, missing traffic signs)



Why Giving up Driving May be Necessary

Giving up driving is very hard for many people, but it may be necessary. Enlisting the aid of family, trusted friends, a doctor, or clergy may be helpful.

- Many drivers do not realize how dangerous their driving has become.
- Feeling the need to drive slowly is a clear sign that abilities have changed and the driver may no longer be able to make the quick decisions and responses needed for safe driving.
- Driving more slowly will not compensate for changes in abilities: Driving slower than the flow of traffic can be very dangerous.
- Driving only in rural areas does not protect the unsafe driver or others. Most fatalities occur in rural areas. Driving abilities can be even more important in rural areas because of the faster speeds and the greater need for rapid decisions and actions.
- Driving close to home is not acceptable if the person has lost the ability to drive safely.

About the DriveABLE Assessment

DriveABLE is a science-based and objective evaluation that can fairly and accurately detect when driving ability has declined to unsafe levels. The assessment takes place in the office and has six tasks that evaluate mental abilities essential for safe driving.

Task Overview

The tasks are presented on a touchscreen and only require touching the screen or pushing a button to respond. Each task is explained, demonstrated and then practiced before completion. Performance on each task is measured against that of healthy people of the same age.

- Task 1 looks at how quickly you can respond.
- Task 2 examines how well you can notice things that occur off to the side while focusing straight ahead.
- Task 3 looks at judgment and decision making abilities.
- Task 4 looks at how quickly you can shift your attention from one thing to another.
- Task 5 looks at how well you can coordinate mental abilities.
- Task 6 has a set of videos of real driving scenes which are shown and you are asked to identify the dangerous situation or what you should do in that situation.



Often a recommendation for driving can be made based on the results from these tasks. If so, the assessment is complete at this point.

Additional Testing

Sometimes, the results from the DriveABLE evaluation done in the office does not result in a recommendation about patients' abilities to drive safely. In those cases, clinical judgment as well as an in-car evaluation may be necessary to determine the next actions.