

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DRIVING ASSESSMENT

The goal of Autonomy Health Occupational Therapy Driving Assessment Service is to enable you to drive safely and legally.

The driving assessment includes both off and on road components. The off road component is conducted by a specially trained occupational therapist and the on road component by both the occupational therapist and a certified driving instructor.

Off Road Assessment

The off-road assessment is conducted by a specially trained occupational therapist and consists of the following components:

1. An interview concerning your medical and driving history
2. Physical screen to determine the presence and extent of any physical limitations
3. Cognitive screen to determine the presence of any difficulties with concentration, attention, memory, problem solving and planning skills
4. Knowledge of current right of way road rules to ensure you can apply them to appropriately simulated situations
5. Vision screen to assess visual acuity, peripheral vision and eye movements. When you have a specific visual problem, a vision assessment is completed by an orthoptist or other vision specialist

This information is used to determine whether or not it is safe to proceed with the on-road assessment and if equipment, car modifications or specialist driving techniques need to be trialled during the on-road component of the assessment.

On-Road Assessment

The on-road assessment is completed in the driving instructor's vehicle which is fitted with dual controls. The vehicle can be fitted with most major modifications if required. Automatic and manual vehicles are available.

The assessment commences in quiet streets and may progress to more complex situations.

The assessment is completed by the following people:

1. Driving instructor who sits in the front passenger seat with access to dual controls. The driving instructor provides guidance on the route required to be taken and provides feedback about your driving performance measured against Department of Transport (DOT) standards to the Occupational therapist.
2. The occupational therapist who sits in the back seat of the vehicle. Their role is to assess the impact of your condition on your ability to drive safely and legally to Department of Transport standards.

During the on-road assessment all aspects of driving are assessed including your observation, speed control, vehicle positioning, planning and judgement, reaction time and physical control. When appropriate, feedback is provided during the assessment in order to give you the opportunity to improve your driving performance.

Report

At the conclusion of the assessment the occupational therapist will write a comprehensive report covering all components of the assessment which will be sent to the Department of Transport and to other recipients as agreed. The Department of Transport will take this report into account and makes the final decision on licence status. If you are unhappy with the outcome of the assessment you may seek a second opinion however the report completed by Autonomy Health's occupational therapist will still be submitted to the Department of Transport.

Outcomes and Recommendations

At the conclusion of the assessment, the outcome of the assessment will be discussed with you.

Possible recommendations to the Department of Transport include:

- Maintain your current licence status without change
- Maintain your current licence status with a short course of driving lessons or appropriate vehicle modifications
- Downgrade your licence to Class C Learner's licence in order to complete a driver rehabilitation program
- Downgrade your licence from a heavy vehicle or rider class to a C-Class licence, prior to assessment in these vehicles
- Suspension of your licence to enable further recovery
- Cancellation of your licence as a result of your medical condition