

DRIVING REHABILITATION SERVICES




Skill Builders
PHYSIOTHERAPY & REHABILITATION CENTRE





Driver Rehabilitation Services

Skill Builders Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Centre has been an MTO approved driver rehabilitation program since 1996. We offer a range of programs to ensure that clients are safe behind the wheel.

Assessments are completed by registered Occupational Therapists who are certified driver rehabilitation specialists; some are also licensed driving instructors. To expedite our service, our team is complimented with an experienced driving instructor who is available full time to provide assistance.

What to expect at your driving evaluation

Part One – In-Clinic Assessment

- **Vision Screening**
- **Cognitive Assessment:** reaction time testing, decision-making speed, attention, information processing, impulse control, memory, mental flexibility and other thinking skills.
- **Physical Assessment:** testing of movement, strength and feeling in hands, legs and feet; balance; and the ability to get in/out of the vehicle. Adaptive equipment may be recommended depending on the client's needs.

Part Two – On-Road Assessment

All aspects of driving are assessed including physical ability, endurance to handle the vehicle, cognitive/behavioural skills, visual perceptual skills, reactions and responses to traffic environment.

Part Three – Feedback Session

Based on the information gathered during the in-clinic & on-road evaluation, the Occupational Therapist interprets results and makes recommendations based on performance strengths and limitations. Results are given at the end of the assessment.

The assessment takes approximately 2.5 to 3 hours.



Our Programs

Driver Evaluation

The purpose of a driver evaluation is to determine if the individual's medical condition, medications, functional limitations and/or anxiety have an affect on his / her ability to drive. Our goal is to help clients drive safely when it is possible to do so.

Driver Training

Following a driver evaluation, the Occupational Therapist may recommend driving lessons. If necessary, lessons are provided by our driving instructors in our dual controlled vehicles.

Vision Waiver Assessment

If there is a visual field loss, driving may still be possible. The Ministry of Transportation may allow a driving (functional) assessment to waive the usual vision requirement for driving a class G licensed vehicle. Our driving evaluation will determine a person's fitness to drive despite this vision loss and will assist, when possible, to provide rehabilitation to allow safe driving. Possible conditions may include vision changes from a stroke, eye disease (glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, diabetic retinopathy) and other vision issues.

Vehicle & Equipment Prescription

In collaboration with the client, written recommendations for adaptive equipment and changes to new or current vehicles are provided. Quotes are obtained from qualified vehicle modifiers of the client's choice. Throughout the conversion process, the occupational therapist is available to assist with any clarification and for final vehicle check-out to ensure function and safety.

Passenger Assessment

Physical limitations and anxiety may limit a person's ability to ride in a motor vehicle as a passenger.

- Adaptive equipment and vehicle modification recommendations address a client's physical limitations.
- In-clinic and / or on-road training can address anxiety issues.

Driving Anxiety Assessment

Our occupational therapists are driver rehabilitation specialists trained to treat emotional and mental health issues. After an accident, drivers and passengers may experience anxiety and / or fears of driving. Treatment involves systematic desensitization through a graded treatment plan using in-vehicle sessions. Our instructors have advanced training to deal with driving anxiety.

Bus, Truck & ATV Assessments

Senior Re-Fresher Program for Current Drivers:

Healthy, older drivers with no medical conditions affecting driving often become anxious about their fitness to drive and ability to pass an MTO test. It is helpful for them to have sessions in a non-threatening, supportive environment with instructors who understand the needs of older, experienced drivers. This involves three lessons and written materials to assist driving longevity while promoting safe driving habits.



Who could benefit from an assessment?

People who have...

- been involved in a motor vehicle accident & have sustained injuries and / or have anxiety.
- questions from family regarding fitness to drive.
- a medically suspended license.
- questions from a physician regarding fitness to drive.
- questions about returning to driving as an occupation (i.e. bus, truck driver).
- Medical conditions such as:
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Stroke
 - Amputation(s)
 - Spinal Cord Injury
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Parkinson's Disease
 - Arthritis
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Early Dementia
 - Age Related Concerns
 - Vision Changes
 - Fear of Driving

How do I access this specialized service?

Anyone can make a referral. If a person's license has been or will be medically suspended by the Ministry of Transportation, we will request a temporary permit for evaluation purposes.

Driving assessments are not covered by OHIP.

Please visit our website or contact our Driving Coordinator for further information.

For bookings call:



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