The assessment outcomes

Following the assessment recommendations are made to the Medical Specialist and Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) regarding driving ability. They may include the following:

• Safe to resume driving with licence reinstatement.
• Modifications to the vehicle to allow safe and legal driving. This will be followed by a series of lessons to learn competent use of the modifications followed by a Disability Driver Test with a Service SA centre.
• Driving lessons to learn compensatory techniques, regain confidence or to upgrade driving skills.
• Temporary licence suspension whilst waiting for further recovery.
• Unsafe to drive with licence cancellation.
• A conditional licence.

Is there a cost for the driving assessment?

The Medical Specialist generally bills through Medicare.

A fee is charged for the Occupational Therapy assessment if required. Enquiries regarding the cost and method of payment should be directed to the Driver Assessment and Rehabilitation Service Coordinator.

Consent

A consent form must be signed before the assessment can commence. Consent is required to authorise the Service to forward copies of the report to the DPTI and referring Medical Practitioner.

Feedback

Feedback about the service provides opportunities to improve. Please contact the Clinical Director if you have any compliments or complaints regarding the service.

Appointments

Appointments are scheduled for the first available mutually convenient time. Appointment details will be forwarded to you. Please note there may be a waiting period.

Cancellations

A cancellation fee is applicable if failure to provide adequate notice (24 hours) to attend an assessment or reassessment, or lesson occurs.

Contact

For more information or to book an appointment, contact Calvary Rehabilitation Hospital on the phone number below, Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm.
Driving is an important part of a person’s lifestyle. For many of us driving represents freedom and independence, enabling us to participate in our day to day activities.

Driving a motor vehicle however is a complex task which requires many skills, such as:

- Good judgement
- Adequate responsiveness
- Reasonable physical skills, and
- Perception

Any loss of function in our physical, visual, cognitive or psychosocial skills as a result of ageing, illness or injury may adversely affect our driving ability.

The law

The privilege to drive comes with certain responsibilities. All licensed drivers in SA must, by law, report directly to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, any long term or permanent medical condition that is likely to affect their ability to drive safely.

Failure to do so may have legal and financial consequences and may result in loss of insurance cover, in the case of an accident.

In SA all Medical Practitioners, Physiotherapists and Optometrists have a mandatory reporting requirement.

Your treating Doctor or Specialist will assess your medical fitness to drive and may recommend you undertake an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment to determine if your medical condition impacts on your driving performance.

Driving assessment service

Calvary Rehabilitation Hospital has a specialised Driver Assessment and Retraining Service.

Our service has Medical Rehabilitation Specialists who can assess your medical fitness to drive. The service also has qualified and experienced Occupational Therapists that are trained to assess the impact of a driver’s medical condition on their ability to drive safely and legally.

The service understands the importance of driving to a person’s life and aims to make the assessment process as simple and as stress free as possible.

What is needed for the assessment?

- A medical referral form completed by your Doctor (General Practitioner or Specialist).
- Your driver’s licence or learner permit.
- Glasses, contact lenses and/or hearing aids if required.
- A list of all the medicines you take.
- Optometrist or Ophthalmologists report (if requested).
- Payment for the Occupational Therapy assessment (payments can be cash, cheque, Eftpos or credit card).

What does the assessment involve?

The assessment consists of 4 parts:

Medical Assessment

- You will require a referral to the Medical Rehabilitation Specialist in the driving clinic who will undertake an assessment to ensure medical fitness to drive.
- An eyesight report from an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist may be required.

Off Road Assessment

- An Occupational Therapy assessment if required involves asking about your driving and medical history, and will assess your physical, visual, sensory and cognitive skills.
- This may take 1 to 1.5 hours.

On Road Assessment

- The assessment will occur in a dual controlled car with a driving instructor and the Occupational Therapist.
- The instructor maintains the safety of the vehicle.
- The Occupational Therapist assesses the impact of a person’s medical condition on their ability to drive.
- The on road assessment takes approximately 1 hour.
- If vehicle modifications are required (eg; steering aid, left foot accelerator) the equipment is fitted and trialled.

Feedback

- The results of the assessment are discussed at the completion of the off and on road assessment.
- A report will be written for the Medical Specialist.
- Another appointment with the Medical Specialist is required to discuss all recommendations about your ability to drive.