

# What is a Driving Assessment?

Information on the medical driving assessment



## Why would your Doctor or ACC refer you for a driving assessment?

A change in medical conditions such as dementia, stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and diabetes; or injuries such as fractures, amputations, and head or spine injuries; or simply the ageing process can affect your ability to drive safely.

If your doctor has any concerns about your skills for driving, they will refer you to an Occupational Therapist for a driving assessment.

Your driver licence application might require you to provide a medical certificate, therefore your doctor will request a medical driving assessment before they are able to sign the medical certificate.

## What does the assessment involve?

The assessment involves two-parts:

- A Pre-On Road Component
- An On-Road Driving Assessment



Driver, Passenger and  
Vehicle Assessments

## Pre-On Road Assessment

The Pre-On Road Assessment is designed to assess a number of areas.

### We need to know:

- Where you normally drive?
- What type of car you drive?
- Is your Driver's Licence current?
- Do you have any physical limitations that may affect driving - such as limited movement, strength and co-ordination?
- Are there any complications with your vision?
- How much do you remember about road rules and intersection rules?

You will take part in an assessment called "DriveSafe and DriveAware." This reviews your awareness of the driving environment and your own driving ability.

If you normally wear glasses to drive and/or read, you will need them for this assessment.

This part of the assessment can be completed in your own home, and usually takes about 60 minutes.



## On-Road Driving Assessment

An On-Road Driving Assessment evaluates the impact of injury, disability, illness or ageing on your medical fitness to drive.

The assessment drive can be undertaken in your own car, or one of the assessment cars if this is considered necessary.

An Occupational Therapist and a Professional Driving Instructor will accompany you during the drive.

The drive is often completed in your local area and might cover places where you would normally drive. Part of the assessment drive maybe in less familiar streets, and could involve a variety of different driving situations such as the local shopping area, suburban back streets and the motorway (if appropriate).

The Occupational Therapist can assist with any vehicle modifications you may require.

The assessment drive will last approximately 45 minutes.

After the assessment drive the Occupational Therapist will discuss your performance with you and write a report outlining the observations and provide a professional recommendation.

This report is sent to your doctor and/or the person who asked for you to be assessed. You will also receive a copy.

Your doctor will review the report, and decide whether or not he/she considers you medically fit to drive, and if any conditions should be placed on your driving.

If conditions need to be placed on your licence the report will be sent to the licensing authority (New Zealand Transport Agency).

**Driver, Passenger & Vehicle Assessments (DPVA Ltd)** is a specialist Occupational Therapy service that provides medical driving assessments.

Please note that the Occupational Therapist has no authority to take your licence from you. This can only be done on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner or the New Zealand Transport Agency.

The medical driving assessment is not a driver's licence test. The purpose of the assessment is to make recommendations about if, or when, you can resume driving, or whether any conditions should be placed on your driving.



## REFERRALS

Referrals can be made via our website: [www.dpva.co.nz/contact](http://www.dpva.co.nz/contact)  
email: [david.morris@dpva.co.nz](mailto:david.morris@dpva.co.nz) or  
phone: **021 221 7950**



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