

The Process

For a review of an individual motorist to begin, MVC must receive a letter from a family member, physician, judge or police officer regarding a re-evaluation. Include the motorist's medical condition(s), and as much of the following information as possible: name and address, driver license number and date of birth. Include your relationship to the driver and your observations regarding the person's driving safety.

Anonymous reports cannot be considered.

After receiving this information, MVC may send a letter to the motorist stating that a driver record review and medical qualifications review are necessary.

The name of the individual that reports a motorist as unsafe can be disclosed.

Contacting MVC's Medical Review Unit

By fax: (609) 292-7504. MVC will follow-up with physicians that fax in a report.

Questions may be directed to the Unit by telephone: (609) 292-7500 ext. 5032

MVC on the Web: <http://www.njmvc.gov>

Concerned About a Spouse, Family Member or Friend?

If your family member has difficulty driving because a medical condition has impaired their ability to follow the rules of the road, you can help.

Discontinuing driving or restricting driving are options. To do so, MVC needs to hear from you.

MVC's Medical Review Unit has developed a process that has helped thousands reach important decisions about when a medical condition could impact the safety of the driver, passengers, pedestrians and other motorists.

Please note that the driver review process is potentially costly and time consuming.

What MVC May Do

MVC's Medical Review Unit considers each case individually.

The review may include:

- Vision test
- Road test
- Written test
- Medical checkup report with motorist's physician
- Monitoring and reporting of medical conditions
- Restricted driving privileges
- Revoked driving privileges
- Combination of above

Medical Conditions & Driving

When Should MVC Know?

Motorist Safety...For All Motorists

Deciding to bring a family member's driving to MVC's attention because he or she might be medically impaired is never an easy decision. In fact, it could be a very difficult decision.

However, it could turn out to be one of the more important decisions you make concerning safety and family. Ultimately, concern for your loved one's health and other motorists' health should be the deciding factor.

Information in this brochure can help you make that decision. Please read on.

Motorist Safety Concerns

Among the safety concerns family members should notice are:

- Doesn't obey traffic signals
- Drives too slowly
- Involved in multiple accidents
- Involved in numerous close-calls

Where You May Find Help

- The NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)
- Local Law Enforcement
- Physician or eye care provider
- County Offices/Area Agency on Aging
- AARP
- Driving Schools
- Community Service Organization

Signs of Impairment

MVC's Medical Review Unit has identified numerous impairment signs and various medical conditions that make driving safely difficult. Here is a partial list of the more prevalent signs and conditions:

- Confusion
- Disorientation
- Memory loss or lapses
- Impaired/altered consciousness
- Alzheimer's or dementia
- Neurological conditions, such as seizure or blackout disorders
- Sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea
- Visual impairment

Driving Restrictions

Not all medical conditions should keep motorists from driving. Restricted licenses allow certain motorists to continue to drive only in certain situations, such as during daylight hours or on roads with posted speed limits 50 mph or lower.

MVC may issue a restricted driver license only after a medical assessment or driver re-exam.

Physicians

New Jersey law requires physicians to report to MVC information about recurrent seizures or recurrent periods of unconsciousness or impairment or loss of motor coordination due to conditions such as, but not limited to, epilepsy.

Additionally, in 1999, the American Medical Association (AMA) reported that all physicians are ethically responsible for notifying their state motor vehicle department – in New Jersey's case, the Motor Vehicle Commission – if they believe a patient may not be able to drive safely.

Age is Not a Factor in Medical Review Decisions

At no time does MVC's Medical Review Unit consider age when determining drivers' medical fitness. Only medical conditions, a medical report from your family doctor and the decision of the MVC Medical Review Unit will be used as criteria in judging a motorist's fitness to drive.

With age often occurs a natural deterioration of important faculties. Vision, reaction and response time, and information processing, tend to blur and slow down as motorists age.

These and other conditions may require medical attention for safe driving. Ultimately, certain conditions may keep individual motorists from continuing to drive.