

Driver Rehabilitation

GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre

May 2020

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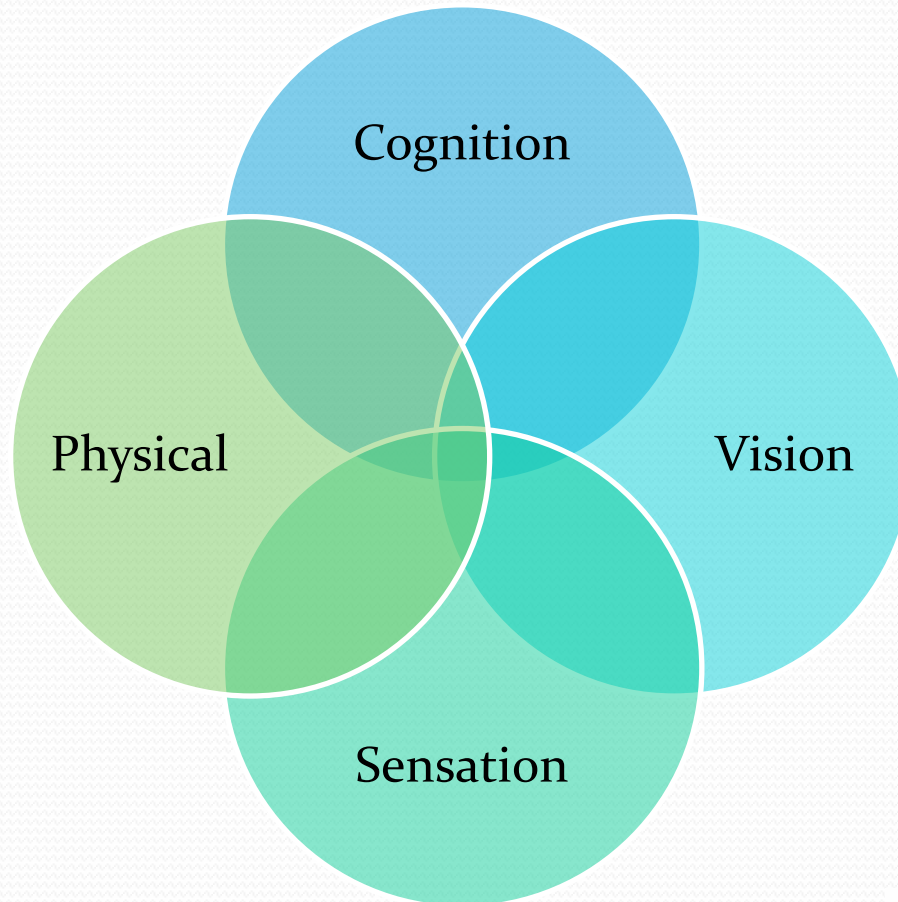
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Driving & Driver Rehabilitation

Driving

- Driving is an important activity for many people. It allows us to get from one place to another and to do the activities we want to do.
- Driving is one of the most complex activities we do. We use many skills at the same time and need to do this fast. Our bodies and brains are designed to work at the speed of walking (3.5km/h), but driving is 50-100 km/h!

Essential Driving Skills



Physical Skills for Driving

Physical Skill	Examples of how it's used in driving
Strength	Moving between pedals, turning the steering wheel, endurance for lengthy drives
Range of motion	Reaching the pedals or steering wheel, turning head and neck to look through intersections, blindspot checks
Coordination	Moving between accelerator and brake pedals, steering, using the turn signals or windshield wipers
Reaction time	Responding to hazards, such as children, emergency vehicles or aggressive drivers
Balance	Getting in and out of the vehicle, sitting still when going around corners

Visual Skills for Driving

Visual Skill	Examples of how it's used in driving
Acuity	Reading road signs
Contrast sensitivity	Seeing lane markings or pedestrians at night, in poor weather or in glare
Peripheral vision	Staying centered in your lane seeing hazards to the side, such as pedestrians or vehicles approaching intersections
Depth perception	Judging the speed and distance of other vehicles when changing lanes or making turns
Visual perception	Staying centered in your lane, recognizing hidden hazards
Scanning	Observing signs, vehicles & pedestrians all around you and in enough time to respond

Cognitive Skills for Driving

Cognitive Skill	Examples of how it's used in driving
Attention	Staying focused and observing critical things in the environment
Multi-tasking	Observing the traffic lights, vehicles, pedestrians and your speed all at the same time, monitoring your speed while watching everything else
Processing speed	Observing things in the environment and making decisions quickly
Decision making	Deciding the right speed for the situation, when to change lanes or make a turn, what to do at a yellow light
Planning	Planning how to get to where you want to go, how much time it will take, whether the vehicle needs fuel, deciding if you have enough energy to drive home safely

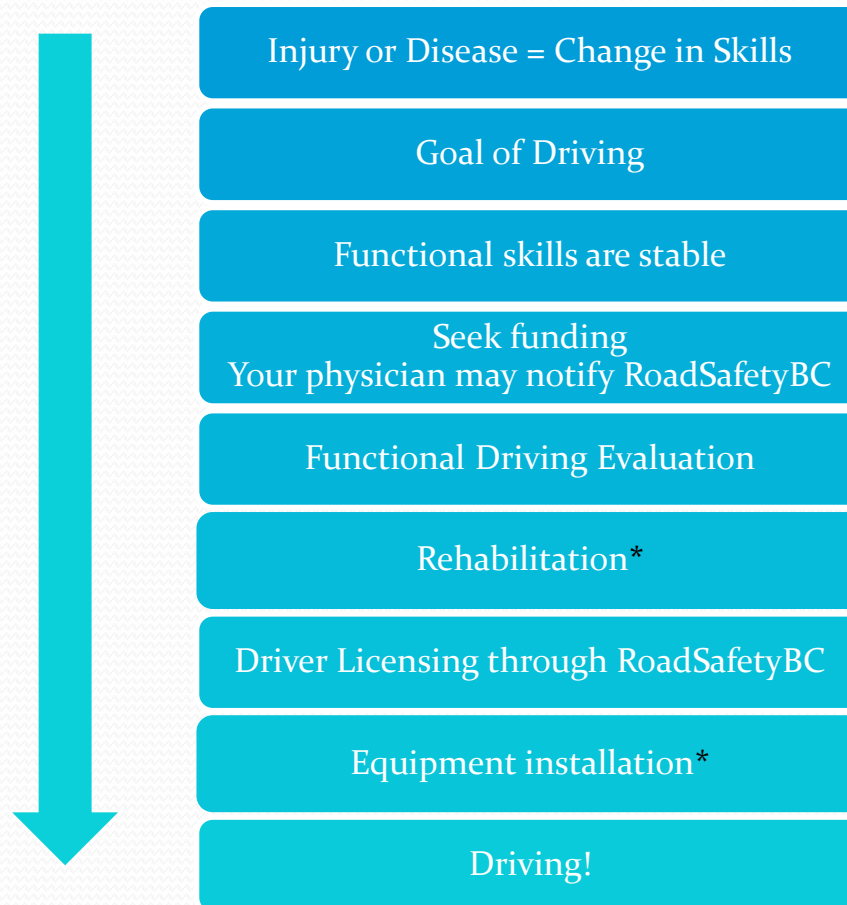
Medical Readiness

Before you drive, talk to your physicians.
There may be medical restrictions for driving.

What is Driver Rehabilitation?

- Driver rehabilitation provides evaluations and rehabilitation to people whose medical condition may affect their ability to drive.
- A Functional Driving Evaluation assesses your ability to operate a motor vehicle and determines if you have the potential to improve from driver training.
- Driver Rehabilitation can assist people with learning to use adaptive driving equipment and altered driving techniques.
- Driver rehabilitation centres work together with RoadSafetyBC, the BC driver licensing authority.

Driver Rehabilitation Process



*Completed only if needed

When is the right time for driver rehabilitation?

- If you have an acute injury
 - when your recovery has stabilized. You will have the best chance at doing well and minimize the chance of rehabilitation or equipment recommendations that may not be needed later.
- If you have a chronic disease and gradual changes
 - when your body or your brain are not working the same
 - consider these [warning signs](#)
- If you were born with a medical condition
 - refer to the [new drivers information section](#)

Functional Driving Evaluation (FDE)

- Completed by an occupational therapist (OT) or a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS)
- Determines if you are safe to drive or if you need anything to help you become safe to drive
 - Adaptive driving equipment
 - Specialized lessons or rehabilitation
- Goal is safety for you and the general public

Functional Driving Evaluation (FDE)

- Assesses driving performance and ability to compensate for skill impairments
- Individualized based on diagnosis and functional skills
- Appropriate for, but not limited to, people with:
 - ABI (acquired brain injury)
 - SCI (spinal cord injury)
 - Stroke
 - Visual field loss
 - Amputations
 - MD (muscular dystrophy)
 - MS (multiple sclerosis)
 - CP (cerebral palsy)
 - Driving anxiety

FDE - what you do

Part 1 – In-Clinic

- 90-180 minutes in the office
- Measures the skills used in driving, such as:
 - Reaction time
 - Range of motion & strength
 - Vision
 - Attention
 - Multi-tasking
 - Speed of thinking
- If you need adaptive driving equipment, this will be selected

Part 2: On-Road

- 60-90 minutes of driving
- Uses a dual control vehicle (instructor brake) as a safety precaution
- Adaptive driving equipment will be installed in the vehicle if needed
- Begins in a low-traffic area and gradually increases in difficulty
- May include tasks to mimic everyday driving needs, such as remembering directions to follow a route
- Feedback is provided during the session and at the end of the drive

Possible FDE Results

1

- You demonstrate the ability to drive safely. The recommendation is made to RoadSafetyBC that you be licensed.

2

- You do not demonstrate the ability to drive safely but show the potential to do so. A driver rehabilitation program will be discussed with you.

3

- You do not demonstrate the ability to drive safely and driver rehabilitation is not expected to be of benefit. A recommendation is made to RoadSafetyBC that you do not drive at this time, but can reconsider this goal if/when your abilities improve.

On-Road Rehabilitation

- On-road rehabilitation provides safe, specialized training in:
 - Adaptive driving equipment
 - Cognitive strategies
 - Visual strategies
 - Anxiety management strategies
 - Gradual re-introduction to the driving environment



Functional Driving Evaluations

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

I'm Ready to Drive. What do I do?

- Talk to your doctor, nurse practitioner or occupational therapist!
- Your medical team will help decide if this is an appropriate time in your recovery or disease progression for a driving assessment.

I need an assessment. Where do I go?

- Your team may start the process by notifying [RoadSafetyBC](#) of the changes to your health and recommending an assessment.
- This helps you access the most appropriate assessment and [funding](#) to cover the cost of assessment.
- RoadSafetyBC will decide if you should take an [Enhanced Road Assessment \(ERA\)](#) or a [Functional Driving Evaluation](#).
- RoadSafetyBC will send you a letter telling you which type of assessment you need to do and who to contact to schedule it.

Can I Use My Own Car?

- No.
- The driver rehabilitation centres use vehicles that have an instructor brake. This is a safety precaution that must be in place.
- You will start driving in a quiet, low-traffic area to get familiar with the vehicle. It is expected that it will take you 5-10 minutes to get used to the vehicle. If you have difficulty with controlling the vehicle after 45-60 minutes, then there is a concern.

What should I study?

- You do not need to study or practice before a Functional Driving Evaluation.
- The in-clinic assessment measures your thinking and physical skills. There is no way to practice this ahead of time.
- Reviewing the [Learn to Drive Smart manual](#) , [Tuning Up manual](#) or taking the [ICBC Drive Smart Refresher test](#) is helpful for any driver, but you may not be asked questions on rules of the road during the FDE. The emphasis is on your thinking, vision and physical skills.

How can I be tested on my driving? I haven't driven recently.

- You do not need to practice driving ahead of time. Your license might not legally allow you to do this.
- The Functional Driving Evaluation is a “needs” assessment. It determines what you need to be able to drive safely. You might not need anything and be ready to drive! You might need more recovery time or driver rehabilitation.
- Most people remember the rules of the road and what to do in situations. If you have more than 2 years of experience, this experience works to your benefit and outweighs the length of time you have not been driving.

I don't live in the area. Is it fair?

- The driver rehabilitation centre will consider where you live and drive when the evaluation is completed.
- Some centres will adjust the driving route for drivers from small, rural communities.
- If this is a concern, please discuss this with the driver rehabilitation centre when you make your appointment.

Can I Just Take Lessons?

- Lessons (rehabilitation sessions) are not provided without an evaluation. The evaluation determines what your abilities are and what you need to work on.
- Rehabilitation sessions are provided only when necessary and after the program goals have been determined.

Can I get a license for daytime or local area only?

- Reviews by provincial licensing authorities indicate these are difficult to enforce and not effective in reducing crashes, so restrictions are rarely used.

Cognitive or Visual Impairment & Driving

Cognitive Impairment

- Cognition is “thinking” or the “brain” skills. We use cognition every day for every activity we do
- [Brainstreams](#) website provides information about the brain and cognition
- Cognitive impairment is when your thinking skills work differently. This might mean:
 - Memory changes
 - Difficulty concentrating/staying focused
 - Getting easily distracted
 - Taking more time to complete tasks
 - Difficulty planning ahead or keeping track of appointments
 - Difficulty with complex decisions and avoiding these
 - Difficulty learning new tasks
 - Mental fatigue! Getting mentally or physically tired more quickly, especially with complicated tasks or in busy environments (e.g. shopping mall)

Causes of Cognitive Impairment

- There are many causes of cognitive impairment. Talk to your doctor if you have concerns.
- Some causes of cognitive impairment include:
 - Acquired brain injury
 - Stroke
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Learning disability
 - Mild cognitive impairment
 - Dementia

Visual Impairment

- Vision difficulties that might impact your ability to drive safely include:
 - Acuity (how clearly you see things)
 - Peripheral vision (seeing things off to the side)
- There are many eye disorders, injuries or medical conditions that can cause vision impairments. Examples include:
 - Stroke
 - Diabetic retinopathy
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Retinitis pigmentosa

Driver rehabilitation readiness with a cognitive or visual impairment

- If you have had a change in your cognition and are recovering or have a learning disability, consider driver rehabilitation when you can independently*:
 - Prepare a simple meal (e.g. lunch)
 - Shop for 3-4 items at the grocery store
 - Take public transportation, HandyDart or a taxi
 - Move around in the community, including crossing a busy street
- If you have a chronic disease and gradual changes
 - When your brain is not working the same
 - Consider these warning signs

*If you cannot complete the activity due to language or physical difficulty, but can direct someone else, you are considered independent for the purpose of driver rehabilitation readiness

Physical Impairment & Driving

Physical Impairment & Driving

- If your body works differently, the rules of the road don't change, but you may need adaptive driving equipment to help you drive safely.
- It takes time to get used to the new way of driving. Most people who need adaptive driving equipment also need driver rehabilitation to become used to the equipment. You must develop the muscle memory to use the equipment without thinking about it. This lets you concentrate on the traffic, not the vehicle.

Adaptive Driving Equipment

- The driver rehabilitation centre will help you find the simplest equipment that will meet your needs
- An adapted vehicle may include:
 - Hand controls for braking and accelerating
 - Devices for one-hand steering
 - Devices for turn signals, windshield wipers, gear shift, etc.
 - Equipment to access the driver's seat/area
 - Equipment to load a mobility device
 - Other custom options depending on individual need

Driver Rehabilitation Process



Injury or Disease = Change in Skills

Functional skills are stable

Seek funding – physician may notify RoadSafetyBC

Functional Driving Evaluation to determine equipment needs

Rehabilitation to learn equipment use*

Recommendations sent to RoadSafetyBC for driver licensing

RoadSafetyBC approves license

Mobility dealer installs equipment*

Driving!

*Completed only if needed

Driver rehabilitation readiness with a physical impairment

Consider driver rehabilitation when:

- Your physical recovery has slowed and you have made the majority of your physical gains
- You can transfer independently *or*
- You will be driving from your wheelchair
- Have **funding** in place.
 - One of the biggest barriers for people with physical impairments and driving is the cost.
 - There are fees for driver rehabilitation, adaptive equipment, the vehicle, insurance, etc.

Left Foot Accelerator

- Adds a third pedal that aligns with your left foot
- Avoids back and hip pain from “reaching over”
- Avoids “catching” your foot on the pedals
- Different styles and brands can be discussed with your driver rehabilitation centre or mobility dealer



Hand Controls

- One handle operates both the accelerator and brake
- Spinner knob used for one-hand steering
- Different styles/ brands can be discussed with your driver rehabilitation centre or mobility dealer



I can't use my hand(s). Can I drive?

- Yes!
- Whether you have difficulty in one or both hands or both your legs and your hands, there is equipment for you.
- Your driver rehabilitation centre will look at these options during your Functional Driving Evaluation



Switches and custom options

You must be able to use turn signals, windshield wipers and other vehicle controls. Sometimes the right technique means you don't need extra equipment. If you do need equipment, there are many options.



Wheelchairs & Driving



- If you can transfer out of your wheelchair, there are devices to help you transfer and load your wheelchair into the vehicle.
- If you cannot transfer, it is possible to drive a minivan or a truck from your wheelchair.
- Ask your driver rehabilitation centre if they have an accessible vehicle or can help you identify which equipment is right for you.

Vehicle Accessibility

- If you have difficulty getting in/out of the vehicle or loading a wheelchair, there is equipment to help.
- The driver rehabilitation centre and mobility dealer will work together to find the right equipment.



Adaptive Driving Equipment

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Can Someone Else Drive My Car?

- Yes!
- Most adaptive driving equipment does not change the usual vehicle controls.
- Another driver can drive the vehicle the usual way and you can share the vehicle. Another driver should not use the adaptive driving equipment unless they are also licensed to do so

Does My License Change?

- Usually, yes.
- **Licensing decisions are always at the discretion of [RoadSafetyBC](#)**
- If you need anything to drive safely, this is reflected on your driver's license. For people who need glasses or contacts, their license has restriction 21 – must wear corrective lenses. For people who need adaptive driving equipment, this is typically:
 - 26 – specified adaptive equipment required
 - 28 – automatic transmission only
- License restrictions mean you can only drive an adapted vehicle. You cannot drive a friend's vehicle that does not have adaptations.

Do I Return to a New Driver License?

- No.
- Driver rehabilitation or adaptive driving equipment does not change your license class, unless you have a commercial driver's license.
- If you have a class 5 license, you do not return to the new driver Graduated Licensing Program.
- If you have a class 7 license, you must still pass the ICBC provincial road test in order to get your class 5 license.

Do I Have to Take an ICBC Road Test?

- Usually, no.
- **Road test requirements are at the discretion of [RoadSafetyBC](#) and may be required for some people.**
- Your driver rehabilitation centre typically provides rehabilitation until you meet the standards expected of a class 5 driver. If you meet this standard, have a valid license and you do not have a history of traffic violations or other medical conditions, then you do not typically need to take an ICBC road test.

Do I Need to Re-Test in the Future?

- After your license is approved by [RoadSafetyBC](#) and you return to driving, you are considered the same as any other driver.
- If you have a medical condition that can change over time (MS, diabetes, etc.), you may be asked to have a medical exam with your doctor on a routine basis to see if there are any changes to your health or abilities.
- If your health or abilities change, you may be asked to re-test.
- [RoadSafetyBC](#) will send you a notice if you need a medical exam or a re-test.

Where Do I Get the Equipment?

- When you finish your driver rehabilitation program, your driver rehabilitation centre will provide an equipment prescription and a list of mobility dealers.
- It is recommended that the equipment is installed by a mobility dealer who is familiar with the equipment and with Transport Canada guidelines.
- NMEDA (National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association) has a Quality Assurance Program that ensures its members meet safety and quality standards.



How Much Does it Cost?

These are average costs and will vary based on the driver rehabilitation centre, individual need and will change over time. Any other equipment or rehabilitation needs will change the costs.

See the [funding resources section](#) for organizations that may help with the costs

Average Costs for Hand Controls

• Functional Driving Evaluation	\$1200
• On-Road Rehabilitation	\$1500
• <u>Hand controls</u>	<u>\$2000</u>
• <i>Approximate total</i>	\$4700

Can I Get a Class 4 License?

- Driver rehabilitation is provided at a class 5 or 7 license standard. Some driver rehabilitation centres may provide assessment for commercial licenses (class 1-4).
- **Commercial licenses are at the discretion of [RoadSafetyBC](#). You must meet the same standards** as any other driver who is applying for a commercial vehicle license. You may need to re-test with provincial licensing to maintain or obtain a class 4 license.
- Complex adaptive driving equipment or difficulty accessing a vehicle may limit you from driving a class 1-3 vehicle.

Can I Travel with Adapted Driving Equipment?

- Most major car rental companies have adapted vehicles.
- Call the Accessibility number, not the usual reservation number, to reserve an adapted vehicle. Schedule well in advance as the number of adapted vehicles is limited.
- The more complex equipment you have, the less likely that a rental company will have something similar.

Can I Use Portable Hand Controls?

- Portable hand controls or other self-installed equipment are not approved by Transport Canada. They are not safe, reliable equipment and are not recommended.
- Portable hand controls are hard on your hands and may cause hand injury if used for extended periods.
- They are often installed in a way that increases your risk of injury if an accident occurs.
- It is unclear if your vehicle insurance remains valid with portable or other self-installed equipment.

New Drivers

16th Birthday – time to drive?

- Driving is a common goal when people turn 16 and are eligible for their first Learner's driver's license.
- Some people are ready to drive but need adaptive driving equipment and rehabilitation to learn the equipment.
- Some people may take more time to learn to drive, just like some people need more time to complete school assignments or learn to play an instrument.
- Not everyone is ready to learn to drive at the age of 16. Some people learn to drive when they are older or take more time to go through the Graduated Licensing Program.

It's a Commitment

- Learning to drive is a commitment.
- Before you start, consider whether you currently have the skills, resources and time to learn to drive.
- It takes many hours of practice and you must be supported by someone during this time.
- There are additional costs as you will have higher vehicle insurance as a new driver.

Driver Readiness - Skills

- The following are activities that require some of the same skills as driving, but are done at a slower speed. If you cannot do these activities independently*, you are not ready to drive
 - Prepare a simple meal (e.g. lunch)
 - Shop for 3-4 items at the grocery store
 - Take public transportation, HandyDart or a taxi
 - Move in the community, including crossing a busy street

*If you cannot do these activities do to a physical or language barrier, but can direct someone through the steps, then you are considered independent for the purpose of driver readiness

Driver Readiness - Resources

- Learning to drive requires many resources. Check to ensure you have all the supports in place.
 - Do you have a family member who is qualified* to supervise you while you have your Learner's license? Are you comfortable learning with this person?
 - *Must be 25 or older and have a class 5 driver's license
 - Do you have access to a vehicle to practice in?
 - The vehicle you practice in must be insured for a new driver. Is your family prepared for the additional cost of insuring a vehicle for a new driver?

Driver Readiness - Time

- Do you have the time and energy to learn to drive?
- ICBC recommends at least 60 hours of driving experience before trying the 7N road test. Drivers with medical conditions may need more than 60 hours.
- Considering all your other home, school and recreational activities, do you have the time and energy for another activity?
- Are you prepared to practice over a period of several months?

Preparing for Driving

- ICBC has resources to help you learn the rules of the road
 - [Learn to Drive Smart on-line manual or app](#)
 - [Practice knowledge test](#)
- The majority of driving is cognitive work, not physical. You can practice driving from the passenger seat.
 - Look for road signs, traffic lights, pedestrians & vehicles.
 - Look 1-2 blocks ahead so you have time to respond.
 - Practise your blindspot checks.
 - Start thinking as a driver and make decisions as you approach intersections.
 - Don't distract the driver! Practice quietly by yourself or out loud only if the driver agrees that the drive is for practising.

I'm Ready – What Steps Do I Take?

Study for and pass
the ICBC
Knowledge Test

Disclose your
medical condition
to ICBC when
asked

Take a medical
form to your
doctor. Your doctor
will send it to
RoadSafetyBC for
review.

Wait for
RoadSafetyBC to
send you a letter
with the next steps

Getting Your Learner's

- When you feel you have the skills, time and resources to learn to drive:
 1. Go to an ICBC Driver Licensing Office and apply for your Learner's license. You will need to pass the knowledge test.
 2. You will be asked if you have a medical condition. This is a legal declaration, so be honest. If you answer yes, you may be given a Drivers' Medical Examination form.
 3. Take the medical form to your family doctor or a specialist who is familiar with your care. The doctor will send the form to RoadSafetyBC.
 4. RoadSafetyBC will take several weeks to review the medical form. They will send you a letter with any next steps that you need to do.

Evaluation?

I don't know how to drive yet!

- You might be asked to complete a Functional Driving Evaluation.
- As a new driver completing an evaluation, you are not expected to know how to drive. This evaluation is to determine:
 - Your potential to drive
 - Any special equipment needed
 - Any special driving lessons needed
- For new drivers, the evaluation is in a low-traffic area and is a driving lesson. You might be asked to identify road signs, or you might start practising how to start and stop the vehicle or make a turn around a corner.

Driver Rehabilitation – Cognitive or Visual Impairments

- New drivers with a cognitive or visual impairment may need lessons through a driver rehabilitation centre.
- These instructors are familiar with teaching strategies for clients with head injury, learning disorders, autism, vision impairment or other medical conditions.
- The lessons are an extended evaluation and will monitor your progress and potential to drive in more complex situations.

Driver Rehabilitation – Physical Impairments

- New drivers with a physical impairment may need adaptive driving equipment.
- Driver rehabilitation provides lessons to teach you how to use this equipment.
- When you can use the equipment correctly, the driver rehabilitation centre will provide an equipment prescription and a [list of qualified dealers for installation](#).

Graduated Licensing Program (GLP)

- The Graduated Licensing Program (GLP) is a requirement for all new drivers.
- New drivers with a medical condition will complete driver rehabilitation until the driver rehabilitation centre and RoadSafetyBC agree the driver can safely transition to the GLP.
- Each person will need a different amount of driver rehabilitation before transitioning to the GLP.

Transitioning to the GLP

- After driver rehabilitation, or if you don't need driver rehabilitation, you will transition to the Graduated Licensing Program (GLP).
- Your family will need to teach you how to drive. Make sure you have someone who is willing to teach you and that you are comfortable learning from them.

Driver Retirement

Driver retirement – it's inevitable

- Everyone stops driving eventually.
- Driving is like a work career. We start driving and drive for many years. Eventually, we need to retire.
- Those people who plan for retirement will adjust more easily to their retirement years.

It's not age – it's medical

- If you have a medical condition, you will probably need to stop driving sooner than someone who does not have any medical conditions.
- The more medical conditions and the more severe medical conditions, the sooner you will need to stop driving.
- Memory changes are a medical condition and a sign that you will need to stop driving in the near future.

Staying a Safe Driver

Reflect on your driving & your abilities.

Discuss driving with your medical team & family.

Be open to options.

Plan ahead.
Everyone retires from driving.

Warning Signs

- I need to use my hand to help my leg move between the gas and brake pedals.
- I feel too tired to drive, but drive anyway.
- I'm not comfortable driving others and/or other people are not comfortable driving with me.
- I don't want to talk to my doctor or medical team about driving because I think they will tell me to stop driving.
- I have had multiple traffic tickets, warnings or accidents.

Other Warning Signs

- I feel that driving slower is safer.
- I only feel comfortable driving during the day.
- I have trouble concentrating when the radio is on.
- I sometimes forget where I put the keys.
- I sometimes forget where I'm going or how to get there.
- I sometimes get confused between the gas and brake pedals.
- There are more dents/dings/scratches on my car than there used to be.

Preparing for driving retirement

- Consider where you need to go.
- Start using other options gradually, while you are still driving. Consider other options at night or when tired.
- Some options:
 - If one person in the family does most of the driving, start sharing driving so everyone stays in practice as a driver and as a passenger.
 - Get support from family and friends.
 - Practice using transit or taxis.
 - Register for HandyDart.
 - Consider grocery or medication delivery.

Driver's License, ID & HealthCare

- If you stop driving, you can get a [BC ID \(Identification\) card through ICBC](#).
 - The BCID card is free if you are exchanging your driver's license for the ID card.
- If your driver's license is also your healthcare card, you can get a free [BC Services card](#) through ICBC.

Fees & Funding

Why are there fees?

- Driving assessment and rehabilitation is not covered under the Medical Services Plan (MSP).
- The fees apply even if you have a doctor's referral.
- The fee covers the cost of the occupational therapist/Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, driver instructor, vehicle, insurance, clerical staff, office costs and time to write the report.

What do I have to pay for?

- There are costs for:
 - Functional Driving Evaluation (initial assessment)
 - In-Clinic Rehabilitation
 - On-Road Rehabilitation
 - Adaptive Driving Equipment
- Each driver rehabilitation centre sets their own fees. Please call the driver rehabilitation centre to find out costs.

Funding Sources

If you have an injury claim, you may be able to get funding through:

- WorkSafeBC
- ICBC
- Crime Victims Assistance

Assessment Funding

- If you have no other funding source, RoadSafetyBC may cover the cost of the assessment.
- RoadSafetyBC will NOT cover:
 - cost of transportation to and from the assessment centre
 - rehabilitation
 - adaptive driving equipment
 - assessments that they did not request.

How to Access RoadSafetyBC Funding

Your doctor completes [a form](#) to notify RoadSafetyBC of the changes in your medical or functional status.

RoadSafetyBC takes 1-6 weeks to review the medical form. RoadSafetyBC will decide if you need to do an assessment and will notify you of their decision by mail

You may be asked to take an ICBC [ERA](#) test or a [FDE](#) through a driver rehabilitation centre. If RoadSafetyBC requires you to do an assessment, they will typically cover the cost.

Driver Rehabilitation Funding

Each organization has restrictions on who is eligible for funding. Contact the organization for details on eligibility and how to apply.

- [BC Rehab Foundation](#)
- Extended health benefits (Blue Cross, Sunlife, etc.)
 - Only eligible if your plan covers Occupational Therapy (OT) and the driver rehabilitation centre employs OTs
- [CKNW Kids' Fund](#)
- [Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of BC](#)
- [Variety Club of BC](#)

Adaptive Driving Equipment Funding

Each organization has restrictions on who is eligible for funding. Contact the organization for details on eligibility and how to apply.

- [WorkBC – Assistive Technology Services](#)
- [BC Rehab Foundation](#)
- [Muscular Dystrophy Canada](#)
- [Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of BC](#)
- [IAM Ministries](#)
- [CKNW Kids Fund](#)

RoadSafetyBC

RoadSafetyBC

- [RoadSafetyBC](#) is BC's provincial agency responsible for road safety.
- It is a part of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles is the head of RoadSafetyBC.
- RoadSafetyBC has several programs to accomplish its road safety mandate, including [Driver Medical Fitness](#).

Driver Licensing Authority

- RoadSafetyBC is responsible for determining whether individuals are medically fit to drive.
- RoadSafetyBC makes the final decision to grant or deny a driver's license.
- RoadSafetyBC “seeks to ensure that drivers are given the maximum licensing privileges appropriate, taking into account the driver's medical condition, the impact of that condition on the functions necessary for driving and the driver's ability to compensate for the condition.”

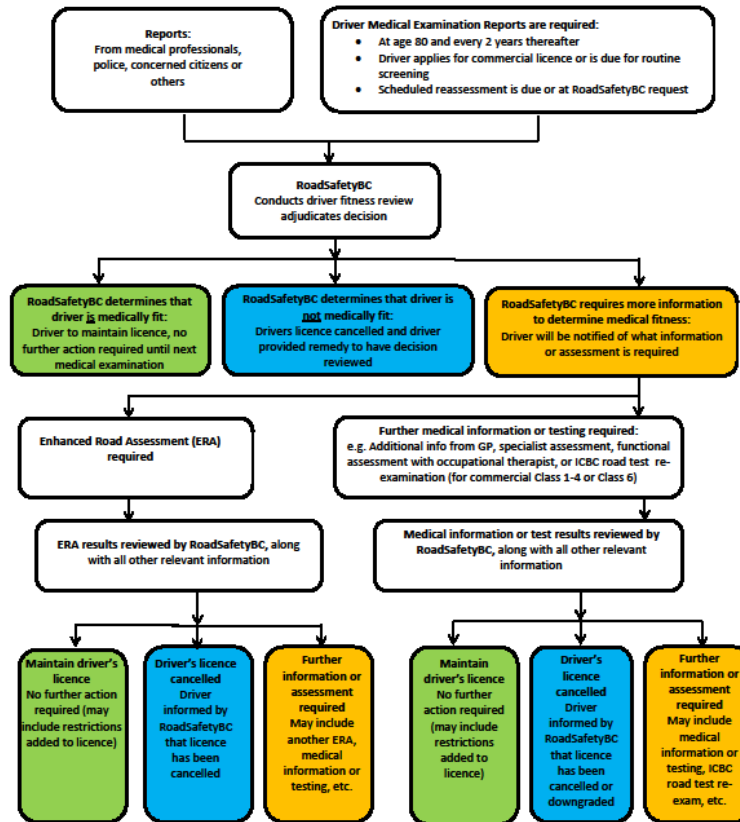
RoadSafetyBC's Review Process

driver medical fitness

understanding the driver examination process



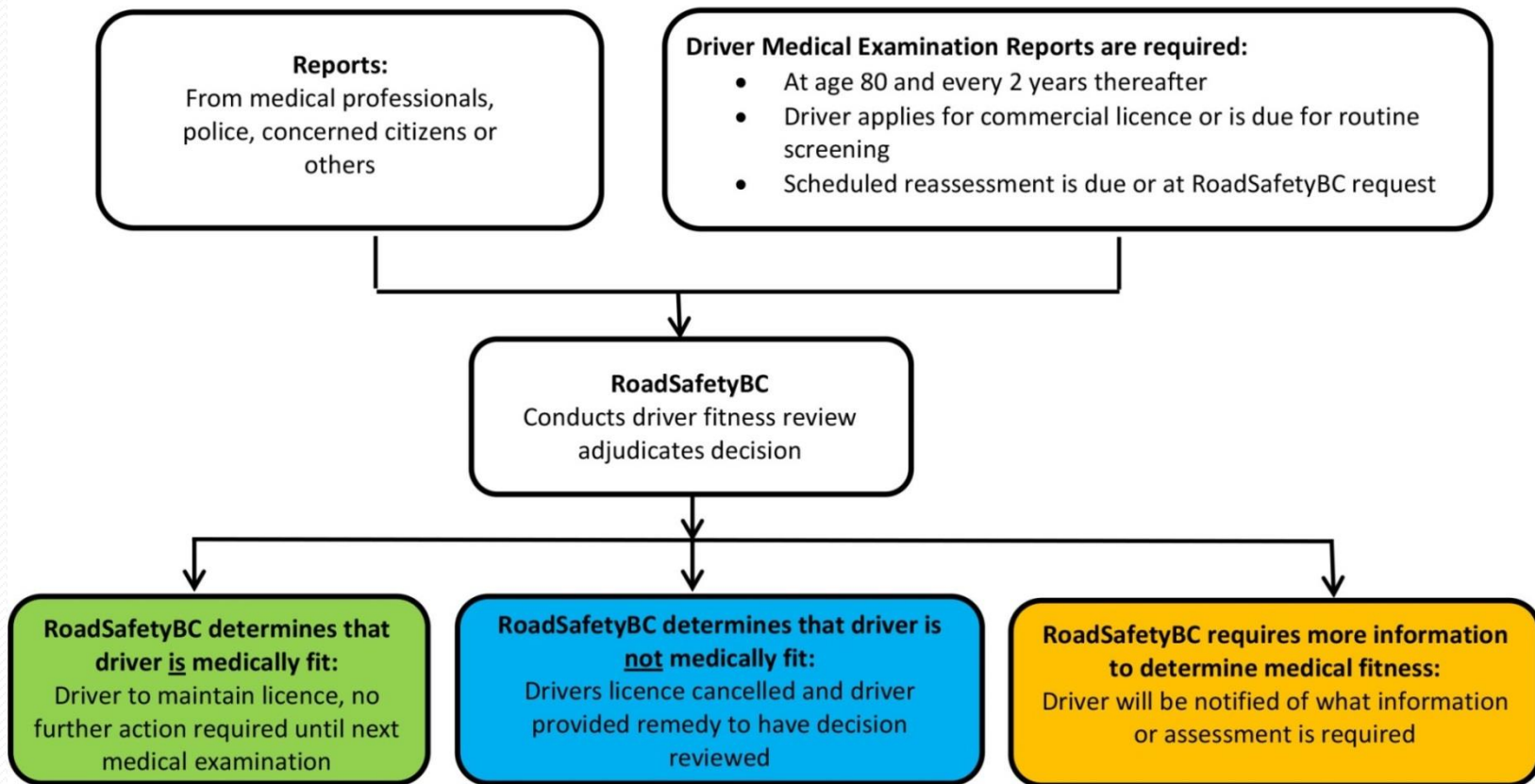
RoadSafetyBC



*Anytime RoadSafetyBC cancels a drivers licence, the individual is advised in writing why the cancellation has occurred and what information is required to have the decision reviewed.

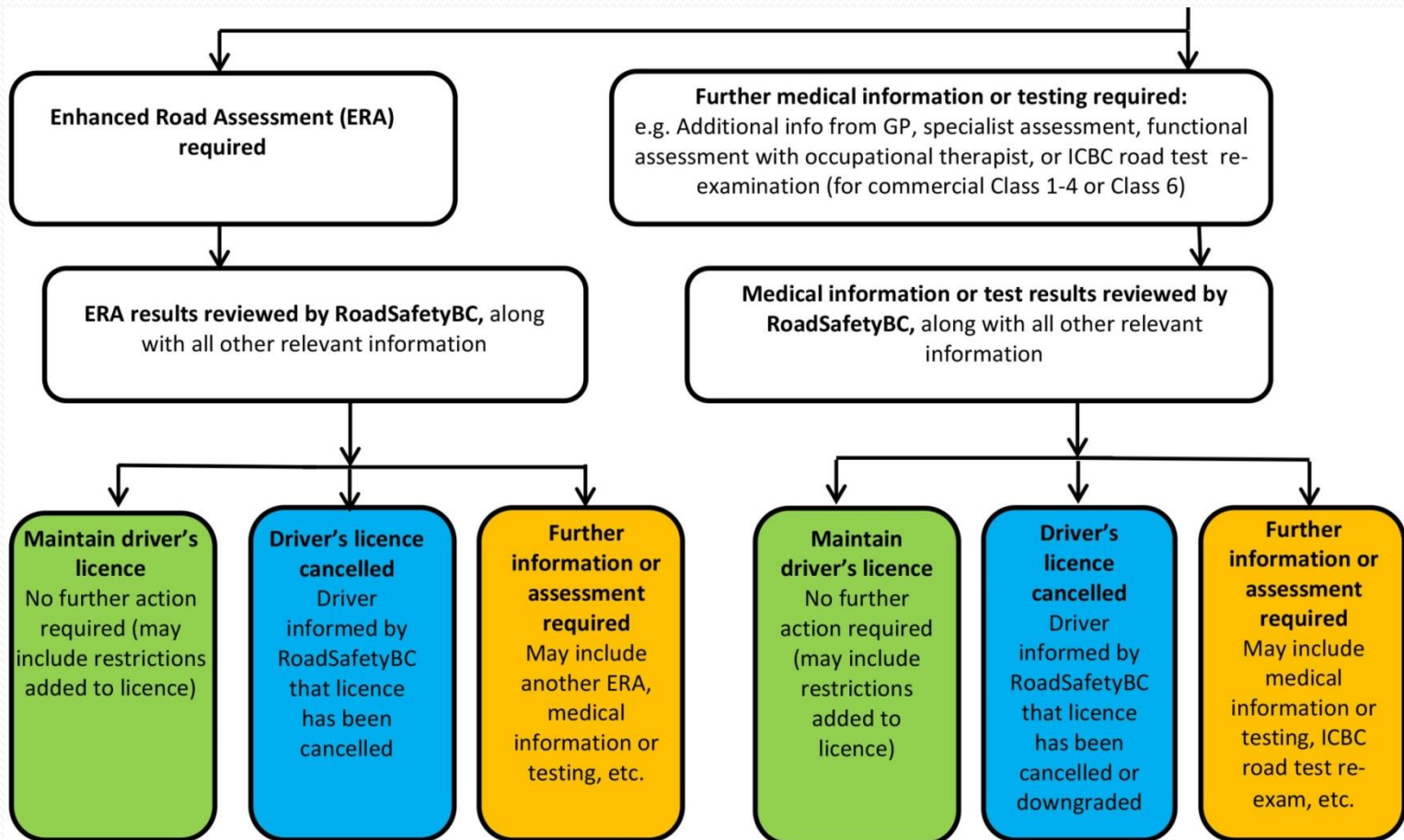
RoadSafetyBC Process - Step 1

Determines if an assessment is needed



RoadSafetyBC Process - Step 2

Determines which type of assessment and reviews the results



Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA)

- Taken at an ICBC driver licensing office.
- Completed in your own vehicle.
- Lasts about 45 minutes, with 90 minutes scheduled to allow time for check-in and discussion.
- Includes general driving skills (turns, intersections, lane changes) and more challenging tasks intended to mimic independent driving, such as remembering and following directions.
- More information is available through [ICBC](#) or [RoadSafetyBC](#).

I've been driving for a long time. Doesn't that count?

- Yes, it does!
- RoadSafetyBC takes into account many things as they make the driver licensing decision. They consider:
 - your driving history
 - medical history
 - medical test results
 - driving assessment results
 - police reports
 - any other relevant information
- Driving abilities may change if your health changes. You may not be able to drive the same as you did for the past 10 or 40 years.

RoadSafetyBC

1-855-387-7747

P.O. Box 9254 Stn. Prov. Gvt.

Victoria, BC V8W 9J2

Fax: 1-250-952-6888

Resources

BC Driver Rehab Centres

Centres referred to by RoadSafetyBC

Public Centres

GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre

Vancouver 604-737-6207

Holy Family Hospital

Vancouver 604-322-2617

Private Centres

Access Driver Rehab

Vancouver & mobile 604-263-5218

Community Therapists

Burnaby, Surrey, Abbotsford
Nanaimo, Victoria, Comox 604-681-9293

JR Rehab

Langley, Chilliwack & Vancouver
604-254-0444

Meridian Rehabilitation

Vernon 250-542-3089

NMEDA Mobility Equipment Dealers

Alliance Mobility Solutions

Richmond

604-370-7004

Alliance Mobility Solutions

Kelowna

236-420-1400

Island Mobility

Nanaimo

250-824-0390

Island Mobility

Victoria

250-634-1895

MediChair Prince George

Prince George

250-562-8280

1-800-330-2772 (Toll Free)

Sidewinder Conversions and Mobility

Chilliwack

604-792-2082

1-888-266-2299 (Toll Free)

SilverCross Automotive

Maple Ridge

604-326-1117

1-877-215-7609 (Toll Free)

Further questions?



- This information was prepared by GF Strong Driver Rehabilitation, March 2021.
- All information is provided to the best of my knowledge and is current as of March 2021.
- If you have further questions, contact your healthcare team, [RoadSafetyBC](#), or [any driver rehabilitation centre](#), including GF Strong
604-737-6207