



CLINICAL PRE-DRIVING PROGRAM

Returning to work, school, running errands, and routings with family and friends – transportation is an essential part of our daily lives. Following a brain injury, the skills required for safe driving may be affected and should be evaluated. The occupational therapists at Shepherd Pathways are trained in the area of pre-driving in order to help clients re-enter the community safely. Included in this guide is a summary of the areas which will be evaluated and further addressed as needed as part of our clinical pre-driving program.

CLIENT/FAMILY INTERVIEW

- Determine if state licensure guidelines are met.
- Obtain pertinent medical history including medication review, pain, seizures, and fatigue.
- Obtain past driving history.

EVALUATION OF VISION

- Acuity, visual fields, perception, ability to move eyes, visual processing, contrast sensitivity, color recognition, visual motor skills.

EVALUATION OF COGNITION AND SELF-AWARENESS

- Memory, attention, executive function (sequencing, planning, judgment, decision-making), language, hearing.
- Sense of direction (or geographic/community orientation).
- Behavior, self-regulation.

EVALUATION OF ARM & LEG MOVEMENT SKILLS

- Range of motion, muscle strength, muscle tone, eye-hand coordination, foot coordination, leg reaction, endurance, balance, transfers.

EVALUATION OF FUNCTIONAL PRE-DRIVING SKILLS

- Working knowledge of road signs, laws, traffic and pedestrian safety guidelines.

- Ability to apply knowledge during simulator training and community re-entry activities.
- Ability to manage strategic, operational, and tactical driving tasks during simulator training.
 - Strategic: Planning and decision-making before and during driving.
 - Operational: Vehicle operation including steering, braking, mirror and turn signal use.
 - Tactical: Applying rules of the road and adapting to demands of driving conditions.
- The clinical pre-driving evaluation will be designed to fit the individual needs of each client.

Following completion of the clinical pre-driving program, the occupational therapist will be able to make the following decisions:

- If healthcare professionals need to be consulted to evaluate and/or address specific needs.
- If the client is appropriate and prepared to complete a formal, on-road driving evaluation and/or training with a driving rehabilitation specialist.
- If alternative transportation options are recommended as opposed to driving.

A physician's prescription is required in order to complete a formal, on-road driving evaluation. Once this prescription is obtained, please contact Shepherd Center's Adaptive Driving Program at 404-352-2020 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

If you are followed by a case manager at Shepherd Pathways, they can assist you with scheduling this appointment.

Have a question regarding driving with a disability, wheelchair transportation options, or even licensing issues in your own state?

Please visit www.can-i-drive.com for information.