

## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Driving Program**

### **What if I am apprehensive about the test?**

The Occupational Therapists performing the evaluations are skilled at providing a comfortable environment and strive to build a friendly and professional rapport with the client and family.

### **Do I need a prescription from my doctor for the testing?**

Spaulding Cape Cod's policy is to have an MD prescription, indicating a diagnosis for all those requiring services through therapy programs. The client may choose the most appropriate physician, NP, or PA to complete the prescription.

### **How long is the Clinical Evaluation?**

The client and family should plan to be in the clinic for 2 hours.

### **What should I expect during the Clinical Evaluation?**

This test takes place in the clinic only. Using research-based testing, you will have a thorough interview, a review of your medical conditions, testing of your visual skills, thinking skills (such as memory, attention, processing speed), and physical testing to determine overall fitness to drive. There is no need to study.

### **Is there a written test?**

The Clinical Evaluation is comprised of visual screening tests and cognitive tests, both written and computer based using a mouse. Assistance using the mouse will be provided as needed.

### **Will I be able to drive on the day of the appointment or will I need to have a driver with me?**

We recommended that all participants in the Driving Assessment and Rehabilitation Program bring a person for support during and after the evaluation. The Clinical Evaluation results will determine the recommendations for driving which may include an on-road evaluation. If recommended, the on-road evaluation would be scheduled for a different day. Both appointments require the client to be driven to the appointment.

### **What will happen if I fail the Clinical Evaluation?**

Each situation is different, and the answers are provided on a case-by-case basis. At the end of the evaluation, the client will be counseled through the outcome, will be provided resources and advised on what the next step(s) will be. If you would like to speak to the therapist to discuss your specific case, please call (508) 833-4179.

### **How long do I have to wait for the On-Road Test to be scheduled?**

The average wait time is 2-4 weeks.

### **How long is the On-Road Evaluation?**

The client and family should plan for a 2-hour appointment. We would prefer that they remain in the building in case we return sooner and want to meet with them.

### **What should I expect during the on-road evaluation?**

The on-road evaluation takes place in Spaulding's vehicle which is equipped with an instructor brake. This car is a Toyota Camry. We assess basic driving safety, following the rules of the road and identify how your medical diagnosis is impacting your ability to drive while assessing the potential need for adaptive equipment. We also use the on-road evaluation to determine need for further driving rehabilitation sessions.

**Can someone come with me during my on-road testing?**

The therapist often allows family and supporters to ride along in the back seat to observe and learn rehabilitation strategies.

**Who will receive the results of my testing?**

The referring doctor will receive the report. The patient may request that they also receive a copy of the report and, at the start of the evaluation, will be offered the opportunity to sign a medical release for others to receive a copy as well.

**Are you able to take away my license?**

While the therapists do not grant or rescind licenses, they do have an ethical responsibility to inform the RMV if there is a serious threat to the patient's or the public's safety based on the results of their testing.

**Does insurance cover these driving evaluations?**

This is a self-pay program. There is a separate fee for the clinical evaluation (\$300) and the on-road evaluation (\$425).

**Will I receive the results the day of the appointment?**

In most cases the therapist reviews the results and recommendations on the same day. In some cases, further follow up with the referring doctor or other parties may be necessary to help determine the results and recommendations.

**Am I able to schedule both appointments for the same day?**

Appointments for both the Clinical Evaluation and On-Road Testing are scheduled on separate days for several reasons: client fatigue after taking the Clinical Testing; client's potential lack of an active driver's license; further follow up before planning the on-road evaluation, and availability of appointments.

**What should I expect during an adaptive equipment evaluation?**

The therapist will complete the clinical evaluation and begin the discussion and education about appropriate adaptive equipment options. The sessions for adaptive equipment training are billed at a rate of \$120 per hour.

**Will I need to take an additional test at the Registry of Motor Vehicles?**

Depending on your license status, an RMV Road Competency Exam may be required. Those individuals wishing to drive with adaptive equipment are required to demonstrate to the RMV that they are safe drivers while utilizing the equipment. This requires successful completion on the RMV Road Competency Exam. In these cases, the Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist from Spaulding prepares the client for the exam as part of the adaptive equipment training process.