

Driver Rehabilitation Program

What can I expect during the Driver's Evaluation?

The physician ordered drivers evaluation is done at CHI Health Immanuel Rehabilitation Institute. The Rehabilitation Institute is located at 6901 North 72nd Street with main entrances off of Newport Avenue or Sorensen Parkway. Please go to the building that says Rehabilitation Institute which is EAST of the main entrance of the hospital. Look for the sign marked with an 'E' and you can use the parking lot directly in front of the building marked Rehabilitation Institute. Upon your arrival please check in with the reception staff at the front desk. Please plan on arriving 15 – 20 minutes prior to your appointment to check in, fill out the necessary paperwork, and make payment of \$350.

The two-part evaluation will take approximately 2 to 2.5 hours to complete. Both evaluations are done with a certified Occupational Therapist who is a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist. The first part of the evaluation is done in the clinic. The clinical portion of the evaluation will take approximately (1) hour. Exactly what is covered during the clinical session varies depending on need and reason for referral. You can expect that the driving specialist will gather a history regarding your past medical history as well as driving history. After the initial intake information is gathered, you can expect the following from the clinical assessment:

1. Visual and perceptual testing
2. Road sign identification and related questions
3. Testing of ability to multi-task information and divide attention
4. Testing of memory and cognition
5. Driving Simulator - tests reaction time, and recognizing on-the-road situations in a simulator where the gas and brake pedal are located just as it would be in an actual vehicle

If appropriate, the second portion of the evaluation, behind the wheel skills evaluation, will be completed. You will be driving a CHI provided vehicle. This is for insurance and liability reasons, and for the safety of you and our driving specialist as our testing vehicles allow for the application of a passenger-side brake by our driving specialist.

The on the road evaluation will take approximately 45 minutes to an hour. The route is determined by the driving needs of the individual and the traffic/road environment they would typically encounter. Interstate driving is completed when applicable. The areas assessed are: general operation of the vehicle, control of the vehicle in the lane while in motion, use of turn signals and turn bays, making turns and checking the blind spot, speed control while driving, the ability to initiate and make stops in an appropriate amount of time and the ability to make safe lane changes. Your driving will be evaluated on overall judgment when driving, knowledge of rules of the road, and the ability to follow through with the rules of the road.

Once you have completed the behind the wheel evaluation you will be asked to return to the driving evaluation room to go over your results and recommendations. These recommendations will be made from results of both the clinical and the behind the wheel driving evaluation. One of the following recommendations will likely be made.

- a. Safe to drive
- b. Unsafe to drive – retire from driving
- c. Adaptive equipment required to drive
- d. Driver's training recommended
- e. Restricted driving to geographical location or time of day

The recommendations are always sent back to the physician. It is then up to the physician to make the final determination on your driving status. It is ultimately up to the physician on whether they agree/disagree with the recommendations. If the physician agrees with the recommendations, the physician will sign a Statement of Physician form. Once the Statement of Physician form is signed, it is the physician's responsibility to fax this information to the DMV in order to make changes to the patient's license.