

Who should undergo a driving evaluation?

If you or someone you know has had any of the following, you and your doctor should consider a driving evaluation.

- Musculoskeletal impairment (range of motion, strength, spasticity, coordination, balance, mobility, endurance, sitting tolerance, sensation)
- Brain injury or organic brain syndrome
- Stroke or other neurological impairment
- Parkinson's disease
- Dementia/Alzheimer's
- Disabilities resulting in neuropathies
- Loss of limb(s)
- Severe arthritis
- Spinal cord injury
- Decreased reaction time
- Impaired memory
- Decreased attention and concentration
- Decreased safety awareness
- Decreased vision



Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital

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**Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital is
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Driver Rehab Program



Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital



The road to independence and safety

The Driver Rehab Program at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital provides objective driving evaluations for people with disabilities or aging issues. We strive to enhance the individual's quality of life, and increase independence through a driving program tailored to meet their specific needs.

Getting back on the road again helps individuals remain active in their communities as well as keep in contact with friends and family. We have a strong commitment to keep seniors and individuals with disabilities as independent as possible for as long as possible.

Who could benefit from a Driver Rehab Program?

- Those returning to driving after an illness or injury such as stroke, brain injury, amputation or neuromuscular condition such as multiple sclerosis.
- Senior citizens who have had a noticeable decline in function, including changes in physical abilities, vision, memory and speed of processing.

The goal of a driving evaluation is to promote independent driving whenever possible.

What is included in the driving program?

The components of the Driver Rehab Program may include:

- A **Pre-driving Screening (PDS)** is a clinical assessment conducted in an Occupational Therapy Department, and is used to determine if an individual has the skills needed to be a safe driver. The assessment takes approximately 1.5-2 hours. Communication, vision, visual perception, memory, concentration, reaction time, and physical strength and movement are assessed.
- A **Behind-the-Wheel Evaluation** is recommended following successful completion of the Pre-Driving Screening. The driver will be referred to an outside driving program in the Baltimore/Washington area. This assessment is conducted in a dual-controlled vehicle equipped with a variety of controls for the disabled. All types of driving are assessed, including local and highway driving.
- A **Driving Education** component is included in all aspects of the Driver Rehab Program. A close working relationship is established with the patient and family to facilitate the best outcome. Support and community resources are provided if it is determined that return to safe driving might not be possible.

Upon completion, several things could happen. The recommendation may be made to return to driving without restrictions. Other possibilities might include use of adaptive equipment such as hand controls, spinner knob, or participation in on-the-road training to improve driving skills. In some cases, returning to driving may be determined to be unsafe.

Qualified treatment team

The Driver Rehab Program is administered by a licensed occupational therapist who has been specifically trained in the area of driving rehabilitation. We work closely with a certified driver rehab specialist, who completes all the behind-the-wheel evaluations. We also work closely with Driver Wellness and Safety at the Maryland MVA to ensure a safe return to driving.

What is the referral process?

Program participation requires a doctor's prescription. To be referred for a behind-the-wheel evaluation, the individual must pass the PDS; have a valid driver's license; or be eligible for a temporary permit from the MVA. Family members, insurance companies and other agencies may also initiate a referral. This service is typically not covered by Medicare or other insurance agencies; however, we encourage you to submit claims for possible coverage.

Free driving consultation

If you or a family member has a question or needs more information about driving, please call 667-234-2800.

