

Driver Assessment & Rehabilitation Services



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Duty to Report

Duty to Report (section 230 of BC Motor Vehicle Act): All psychologists, optometrists, medical practitioners and nurse practitioners:

If a client has a medical condition that makes it dangerous to the patient or to the public for the patient to drive a motor vehicle, and/ or they continues to drive a motor vehicle after being warned of the danger

- Must report to Superintendent - See ***Report of A Condition Affecting Fitness and Ability to Drive*** (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/roadsafetybc/medical-fitness/medical-prof/reporting-person>)

Occupational Therapist's are not mandatory reporters; however, OT's do report directly to RoadSafetyBC directly as FDE providers.



FDE Referral Process

Referring is Easy:

- As the medical provider; duty is to report is your responsibility. If the medical provider doesn't report, then the patient often falls through the cracks in this process.

Simple as:

- Complete the DMER or **Report of Condition Affecting Fitness and Ability to Drive** and submit to RoadSafetyBC and/or
- If the patient has a WSBC or ICBC claim then recommend Functional Driving Evaluation via prescription or report, **or**
- Click Referrals tab at www.communitytherapists.com for online form or fillable/printable PDF

FDE Referral Process

1. **During a visit with your patient:** Fill out the **RoadSafetyBC form:** Either the **DMER** or ***Report of Condition Affecting Fitness and Ability to Drive**. Suggest check off the following option on that form:

☐ RECOMMEND DRIVING ASSESSMENT (i.e.: ICBC on-road assessment or Functional Driving Evaluation) and in the notes – can indicate Functional Driving Evaluation recommended.

- More information can also be found here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/driving/roadsafetybc/medical-fitness/medical-prof/mv2351_condition_affecting_ability_to_drive_2022may.pdf

FDE Referral Process

2. During a patient visit: If the patient has an **ICBC or WSBC claim**, then physician can provide recommendation for FDE via a prescription or update letter/ report to the insurer, or provide to patient so they can submit to their insurer.

- Patients also have the option to private pay to expedite the process if they wish.

Then:

RoadSafetyBC or the Insurance Provider will then send the referral; and the FDE provider takes care of the rest of the process and paperwork; providers just need the referral to start the process.

- ICBC and WSBC are moving away from initiating referrals, insurers require direction to refer for health care services from a physician.

How to Reduce Referral Barriers

1. Need to request OT in writing to help increase chance of patient getting OT
2. Using their contract terminology can help
 - -WorkSafeBC – Driver Assessment and Rehabilitation Services (D.A.R.S.)
 - -ICBC/OTHERS – Occupational Therapy Functional Driving Evaluation
 - -WorkSafeBC – Occupational Therapy Services Referral (OT Services)
3. Highlight “Risk” or “Safety” – think falls, re-injury etc.
4. Highlight benefit > “OT will expedite eventual return to work”
5. Encourage patients to ask their insurance rep to see an OT (increased consumer focus)

How to Reduce Referral Barriers

- Insurance providers (e.g. WorkSafe and ICBC, LTD, VAC, have shifted from making referrals to expecting physicians to make the referrals; the insurance companies indicate that physicians must 'direct care')
- Fewer referrals are being made for OT services and funding agencies seem to be overlooking the risk (e.g. leaving people living at falls risks without equipment or appropriate supports in place, or off work for extended periods of time when OT services could provide equipment and intervention to support return to activities of daily living)
- OT can help if there are functional limitations arising from a medical condition at home, or in community or at workplace. OT's work with people with physical, cognitive, mental health or visual related limitations to help return to self-care, household and community activities, leisure activities, return to work and driving.

Resources

- **Community Therapists Driver Rehabilitation Services:**
<https://www.communitytherapists.com/services/driver-rehab-driving@communitytherapists.com> or 604-566-8457 or 1-800-591-9477 ext. 153
- **CCMTA Medical Standards with BC Specific Guidelines:**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/roadsafetybc/medical-fitness/medical-prof/med-standards>
- **Reporting a Patient who may be Unfit to Drive:**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/roadsafetybc/medical-fitness/medical-prof/reporting-person>