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## **MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Medical advisors and administrators from all Canadian provincial driver licensing bodies developed the medical standards used in Alberta. The Department of Transportation has the final responsibility to determine driver fitness. A person who holds or applies for an Operator's Licence must immediately disclose to the Registrar a disease or disability that may be expected to interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

Commercial drivers require a higher level of fitness because of the nature of their cargo, types of vehicles being driven, nature of physical work, exposure due to significant number of kilometres driven number and the consequence of a collision involving a large motor vehicle.

Some of the diseases or disabilities that may interfere with the safe operation of motor vehicles can be found in these categories:

1. VISION (e.g. minimum correct vision, double vision, telescopic lenses)
2. HEARING (e.g. vertigo, and issues particular to commercial drivers)
3. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES (e.g. heart)
4. CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES (e.g. stroke)
5. PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES (e.g. aneurysm and veins)
6. DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM (e.g. seizures, sleep disorders, dementia)
7. RESPIRATORY DISEASES (e.g. lungs)
8. METABOLIC DISEASES (e.g. diabetes, parathyroid, pituitary, adrenal )
9. RENAL DISEASE (e.g. kidneys)
10. MUSCULOSKELETAL DISABILITIES (e.g. arms, legs, spine, paraplegia and quadraplegia)
11. PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS (e.g. mental, emotional, personality, psychotic)
12. THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS (e.g. sedatives, tranquillisers, antidepressants, narcotics)
13. THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL (e.g. alcohol dependency)
14. AGEING ISSUES (e.g. lack of attention, poor judgement, confusion, loss of strength, slow reaction time, progressive dementia)

A person who holds or applies for an Operator's Licence must immediately disclose to the Registrar a disease or disability that may be expected to interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

The presence of a related medical condition does not necessarily mean that a person ability to drive will be restricted, however in order to determine the effect of the condition on driver fitness the department must review the related factors such as term of illness, treatment, medications and other factors.

### **VISION**

Acuity  
Colour Vision  
Visual Field Defects  
Scotoma  
Hemianopsia and Quadrantic Field Defects  
Diplopia  
Corrective Devices  
Telescopic Lenses

### **HEARING**

Loss of hearing

### **CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES**

Cardiac Inflammation and Infections (acute pericarditis or myocarditis)  
Congenital Heart Defects  
Coronary Artery Disease  
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Unstable Angina  
Suspected Asymptomatic Coronary Artery Disease  
Coronary Angioplasty  
Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery  
Left Main Coronary Disease  
Disturbance of Cardiac Rhythm  
Premature Atrial or Ventricular Contractions  
Ventricular Fibrillation, "Sustained" Ventricular Tachycardia  
Non-sustained Paroxysmal Ventricular Tachycardia, Paroxysmal Supraventricular  
Chronic Atrial Flutter or Fibrillation  
Sinus Node Dysfunction (Sick Sinus Syndrome)  
Carotid Sinus Hypersensitivity  
Atrioventricular and Intraventricular Block  
Artificial Cardiac Pacemakers  
Implantable Cardioverter/Defibrillator  
Valvular Heart Disease  
Medically Treated or Untreated Valvular Heart Disease (Including Percutaneous Valvuloplasty)  
Surgically Treated Valvular Heart Disease  
Congestive Heart Failure, Left Ventricular Dysfunction, Cardiomyopathy  
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy  
Mitral Valve Prolapse  
Cardiac Transplantation  
Hypertension

### **CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES**

Cerebrovascular Insufficiency  
Cerebrovascular Accidents (Stroke) Attacks

### **PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES**

Aortic Aneurysm  
Cerebral Aneurysm  
Peripheral Arterial Vascular Disease  
Diseases of the Veins

### **DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM**

The Nervous System and Driving  
Syncope (Unexpected Loss of Consciousness or Awareness)  
Seizures  
Narcolepsy and Other Sleep Disorders  
Sleep Apnea  
Vestibular Disorders  
Disorders of Coordination and Muscle Control  
Mental Deficiency and Retardation

Dementia  
Head Injury  
Intracranial Tumour

**RESPIRATORY DISEASES**

Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease  
Chronic Pulmonary Disease Necessitating Supplementary Oxygen  
Tracheostomy

**METABOLIC DISEASES**

Diabetes Mellitus  
Hypoglycemia  
Thyroid Diseases  
Pituitary Diseases  
Adrenal Diseases

**RENAL DISEASE**

Role of Chronic Renal Failure in Driving  
Driving Hazards Associated with Intermittent Hemo Dialysis  
Renal Transplant

**MUSCULOSKELETAL DISABILITIES**

Musculoskeletal Disabilities and Driving  
Disabilities of the Limbs  
Disabilities of the Spine

**PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS**

Mental Disorders and Driving  
Emotional Disorders  
Personality Disorders  
Psychotic Illnesses  
Psychiatric Therapy

**THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS**

Sedatives  
Major Tranquilizers and Antidepressants  
Narcotics  
Hallucinogens  
CNS Stimulants (Amphetamines)

**THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL**

Habitual Alcoholic Intoxication

**THE AGEING DRIVER**

The Effects of the Ageing Process on Driving Ability