



FAST FACTS

A message for health care providers



Physician's Request for Driver Review (DS-6) Form (form revised 12/2010)

What is the DS-6 Form?

- This form is provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), for use by a physician, to report an individual whose driving ability may be affected due to some physical or mental impairment.
- There are a variety of medical situations when a physician cannot determine this solely on an office visit, yet the physician is clearly in a position to identify possible "at risk" driving symptoms.
- The purpose of the driver re-evaluation program is to allow a driver to demonstrate that he/she is qualified to drive.
- The purpose of the program is **not** to remove driving privileges based on age or any standard except driving performance.

Can anyone use this form?

- No. Only physicians can use the DS-6 Form.
- Reporting information for individuals other than physicians can be found at www.dmv.ny.gov/olderdriver/reeval.htm.

Is this form used only for older drivers?

- No. This form is used by a physician concerned about any driver licensed in NY State.
- The DMV considers each case of a possible medical condition separately.
- The DMV does not consider the age of a driver in these cases, and does not re-evaluate driver skills and abilities based solely on the age of the driver.
- Age alone is not a good indicator of driving skills and ability. The best indicator is the performance of the driver on the highway.
- Two of the most important performance abilities for drivers of all ages are the ability to see hazards clearly, and the ability to respond quickly to changes in driving conditions. Both of these abilities can decrease to a large degree in older drivers.

What happens to the driver when I submit this form?

- After an evaluation interview, the DMV license examiner can require that the driver take a re-examination or ask for other specific tests. The license examiner decides if a re-examination or specific tests are required including a referral to a local Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (DRS) if needed. A DRS can assist when vehicle modifications or training could be utilized to continue driving.
- A re-examination can include a vision test, a written test, and/or a road test. If the driver does not appear for a re-examination, or does not pass, the DMV suspends or revokes the driver license.
- If a physician reports a condition that can obviously affect the driving skills of a patient, the DMV can suspend the driver license until the reporting physician or another physician provides a certification that the condition is treated or controlled and does not affect driving skills.
- The DMV can require that the physician certify again in the future that the condition is controlled and not dangerous. If the DMV does not receive the required certification, the DMV can suspend the driver license until it receives the certification.

Resources:

- NY State DMV DS-6 Form, Physician's Request for Driver Review: www.dmv.ny.gov/forms/ds6.pdf (Updated 12/2010)
- AMA Physician's Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers: www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/public-health/promoting-healthy-lifestyles/geriatric-health/older-driver-safety/assessing-counseling-older-drivers.page
- Adaptation of AMA's driver assessment flow chart specific for physicians in Western New York: www.erie.gov/depts/seniorservices/older_driver/pdfs/physician_assessment_form.pdf