

Grey Matters 2015

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Drumheller, Alberta



Thank You

Alberta ■ Seniors

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Pterodactyl

Aging and Mobility-A Critical Issue

- Seniors transportation and mobility are critical issues for AMA.
- More than 3 out of 4 members say it is important that AMA be involved in issues related to aging drivers. Source: 2011 Initiatives Monitoring Survey
- Our goal is to assist people in being proactive in maintaining their driving ability and planning for their future mobility while they are still driving.

Aging Demographic and Driving

- In Alberta: there are 378,000 adults over the age of 65 with a drivers license. AB Transportation 2015
- Approximately, 59,000 are over the age of 80. AB Transportation 2015
- Mobility equals good quality of life and independence and that “driver cessation is likely to be associated with reduced social contact and increased depression” (Marotoli et. Al. 1997)
- As people age and living longer they are more likely to develop age related changes/ health conditions that impair driving safety.

Who's in Charge of Licensing?

Driver Fitness and Monitoring-Province of Alberta deals with all drivers, including aging drivers.

- DFM makes final decision on whether an individual can or cannot drive.

What is the licensing process in Alberta?

- Medical exam for driving fitness at 75, 80 and then every 2 yrs.
- CCMTA publishes medical standards listing medical categories that may warrant concern.
- Physicians and other professionals maybe involved such as occupational therapists and on road examiners.

www.seniorsdriving.caa.ca



TIPS FOR SENIORS AND THEIR LOVED ONES A A A Search... >

- Homepage
- Seniors Driving: Overview
- Renewing Your Driver's Licence
- Assess Your Driving Skills
- How Aging Can Affect Driving
- How to Maintain Driving Skills
- Adjusting Your Driving Habits
- Medications & Driving

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Find ways to diminish the impact of aging and maintain your driving skills.
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Learn when changes in driving habits may be necessary, and discover ways to have an open conversation with loved ones.
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Understand how different medications may affect your driving.
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Seniors In-Vehicle Evaluation

Why is AMA offering a Seniors In-vehicle Evaluation?

- Our goal is to provide accurate and objective feedback to seniors/families on their driving safety. To help them to continue to drive safely or make the decision to transition away from driving.
- AMA believes that a behind the wheel evaluation on one's ability/skills is key.
- AMA is recognized for work in road safety, advocacy efforts and driver education relating to novice, senior and professional drivers.

AMA Seniors In-vehicle Evaluation

- Confidential one –on- one evaluation (behind the wheel) of a one's driving safety/ability.
- In-vehicle drive takes 45 minutes in a vehicle equipped with a dual brake and mirrors.
- Specific routes have been designed to allow for consistency across the province.
- Family members are encouraged to be involved in the process.

Senior Driver In-Vehicle Evaluation At A Glance

- Pre-Evaluation
- **Behind-the-wheel/In-vehicle** evaluation
- Feedback and written evaluation
- Time: **Approx. 2–2½ hours**



Pre-evaluation

1. Participation Agreement – Confidentiality
2. Vision Check
3. Senior Driver Questionnaire

Vision Check

Standard vision check and legal requirement

- Determine if legally able to drive
- Verify Condition Code A (Adequate Lenses) and current vision status, i.e., cataract surgery
- Determine if there are any vision issues that may affect driving
- 50/20 (both eyes and either the left or right)

In-Vehicle Evaluation

Three Components:

1. Knowledge of the Rules of the Road
2. Vehicle-Handling
3. Hazard Awareness

1. Knowledge

The following areas are evaluated:

1. Lane Change
2. Speed Management
3. Point of Continuing
(Covering the Brake)
4. Space Cushion
(Following Distance)
5. Stopping in Traffic
6. Right Turns
 - Traffic Lights
 - Stop/Yield Sign
7. Left Turns
 - Traffic Lights
 - Stop/Yield Sign
8. Reversing (Backing)
9. Route Planning/
Independent Drive

2. Vehicle-Handling

The following areas will be evaluated:

1. Steering



2. Braking



3. Speed Control



4. Visual Skills



3. Hazard Awareness

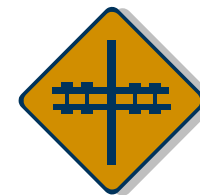
The following areas will be assessed:

1. Judgment – Time and Space

2. Judgment – Right-of-Way



3. Information Gathering



4. Hazard Awareness and Management



The Drive

(Approximately 45 minutes)

Covers:

- residential areas
- school zones and/or areas
- playground zones and/or areas
- bicycle lanes – shared, single file, designated
- one-ways
- traffic signs and potential hazards
- protected and unprotected left turns
- right-of-way at uncontrolled and controlled intersections
- backing
- dual turns

Feedback: Verbal and Written

- Immediately after the in-vehicle drive verbal feedback will be provided on areas that were performed well and recommendations for improvement.
- A written evaluation is provided to the senior within 10 days of the evaluation. They can share with whomever they choose.

Risk Categories

Each client will fall into a rating of low risk to very high risk. Based on the rating, one of the following will be recommended.

- 1) Reassurance of driving ability.
- 2) Maintenance of safe driving with recommendations such as brush up lessons, re-training.
- 3) Recommendation to transition from driving (provide support and identify community resources/alternative options)

Who comes to us?

- Seniors who are interested in receiving feedback and recommendations on their driving safety/skills.
- Seniors who are experiencing age-related changes and in some cases health conditions.
- Seniors who have failed the road test.
- Seniors who have been recommended to do the road test as part of their license renewal.

Some Common Issues

- Shoulder checking
- Visual skills
- Vehicle control
- Judgment

Examples

AHS and AMA Pilot Project

- AHS-Occupational Therapist and the AMA entered into a pilot project to improve the availability of driver assessment services 2 rural communities. Very beginning stages.



AHS and AMA Pilot Project

- OT's have provided pre-driving assessments in clinic but have limited access to CDE (in-vehicle/on road).
- This pilot project will allow OT's the ability to travel on-road with the client with a certified AMA evaluator.
- This provides the client the opportunity to demonstrate on-road performance behind the wheel in their own community.

(CDE-Comprehensive Driving Evaluations)

- Occupational Therapists are the medical professionals with additional training in driving.
- AMA driving evaluators are trained in the area of driving-rules of the road, visual skills, vehicle handling and hazard awareness

Questions



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