

Challenging Myths and Opening Minds: Aging and the Medically At-Risk Driver

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Questions and Answers

- Q: How do I get DriveWell training?
A: Go to www.asaging.org/drivewell and select “find an expert”.
- Q: What can be done to set up a medical review board, how to recruit participants, and are members paid or do they work on a volunteer basis?
A: Information on how jurisdictions have set up their medical review boards and whether members are paid/volunteer may be found in “Summary of Medical Advisory Board Practices in the United States.” Further recommendations for structuring MABs may be found in “Strategies for Medical Advisory Boards and Licensing Review.” Links to both documents may be found at http://www.aamva.org/drivers/drv_AgingDrivers.asp.
- Q: How can we get those statistics that Kim Snook said would be ready in two years? The lists of what we should be asking for etc. (Two years is a long time).
A: This refers to the AAMVA/NHTSA project to develop driver assessment guidelines. There is no information yet available for publication.

Additional Questions

- Is there any scientific data that would support a particular age cutoff for more frequent license renewal or renewal of licenses in person? This data would be useful to justify the need for frequency and mode of renewal (in-person vs. by mail) changes.
- There appears to be emphasis on decreasing mortality/fatalities; however given better training systems and vehicle protection – are there similar data and goods to reduce mortality?
- We do need to coordinate standards (medical) requirements, i.e. CCMTA, FMCSA, Canadian Medical Association and jurisdictions.
- Need further discussions about restricted/coordinated licensing systems. What is the future of restricted driver licensing?
- Suppliers who market vehicle adaptations are concerned about selling devices to clients independent from DMV or OT referral. Does any jurisdiction require that vehicle adaptation suppliers notify DMV of the sale or of vehicle modification?
- Has any jurisdiction/physician/lawyer discussed advanced directives for driving cessation with an individual? What might that look like?

- How many officers request notification of the outcome following reevaluations and how are they notified?
- When a physician or nurse practitioner approves for their patient to drive, are they liable if the driver causes a crash due to their medical condition?
- Liability – Disclosure by Driver: Does simply asking the driver to disclose mitigate liability or should a state be deliberate and require a sworn statement or signed declaration?
- Are there cases where 1) doctors/families send written concern to the DMV; 2) the DMV gave a license; 3) a crash/injury occurred; and 4) there was a successful lawsuit?
- Does an individual who is denied a license per an MD's perspective have a right to request a road test? (Meaning she disagrees with the MD's recommendation.)
- What data exist that relates prevalence of medical conditions and rate of self report by the driver to the DMV? What plans are in process for developing transportation options for the huge number of elderly who will not be able to use public transportation?
- Does any jurisdiction's data (lower collision and injury) show that there is a safety model that might be emulated by other jurisdictions?
- How do we deal with older people who continue to drive despite losing their licenses?
- What methods do states utilize to educate law enforcement/medical professionals in reporting to DMVs?
- How do we do it? How do we justify getting money?
- Are the state screening standards hard and fast? What can/should be hard and fast, and what requires additional demonstration of safe driving?
- In our state (Kansas) we allow physician's assistants and nurse practitioners to complete our medical forms, but we will not accept them unless the supervising doctor reviews and signs the forms. Are we outdated? We feel we are being very careful.
- Could a state use driving simulation technology to assess driving fitness and support the ADA? What would be some general requirements for the simulation system?
- In order for all 50 states to have uniform testing procedures for license renewal and medically impaired drivers, would legislation have to be passed in each state?
- Is there some way for MVAs around the country to collaborate with each other when drivers who are on medical review or under medical care, move from state-to-state? I realize that we must be careful about what can be disclosed, but what about a flag on the record that causes the DMV to ask questions of the driver regarding a medical or visual condition?
- Any plans to develop a national/international organization of medical advisory boards?