Maryland Medical Review Process

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Chrissy Nizer, Chief Deputy Administrator
Medical Advisory Board

- Medical Advisory Board (MAB) established in 1949
- MVA has primary responsibility regarding driver fitness
- List of reportable medical conditions outlined in COMAR 11.17.03
- Reports taken from variety of sources
  - Physician
  - Self-report
  - Law Enforcement (Request for Re-examination)
  - Court
  - Concerned citizen
Medical Review

• Driver Wellness and Safety Unit
  – 10 Nurse case managers (1 supervisor)
  – Review over 40,000 cases annually
  – Coordinates referrals with the MAB

• Medical Advisory Board (MAB)
  – 12 Physicians in variety of specialties
  – Review cases with nursing staff
  – Make recommendations regarding cases
  – Advises MVA on medical review processes
Referral Sources

Composition of Referrals by Source, 2014

- Re-exam/Police: 17%
- Self-report/Branch Referral: 19%
- Reinstatement: 12%
- Clinical Referral: 8%
- Other: 9%
- MAB/Medical Follow-Up: 31%
- Court: 1%
- Family Citizen: 1%
- ALJ: 2%
Functional Capacity Test

- Functional Capacity Test (FCT) - a short series of tests that measure basic visual, cognitive and physical abilities needed to safely operate a motor vehicle.

- The FCT has 5 different segments:
  - **Motor Free Visual Perception Test**: match complete and incomplete diagrams
  - **Rapid Pace Walk**: walk approximately 10 feet and return
  - **Trails B Test**: draw lines from numbers and letters in sequence
  - **Cued Recall**: recall the name of 3 common objects several minutes later
  - **Useful Field of Vision**: tests ability to see peripheral objects while focusing on a central object.

- Provided at 10 branches offices
Medical Review Process

• Goal is to keep individuals behind the wheel, as long as it is safe!

• Outcomes may include:
  – License restriction (outside mirrors, daytime driving, etc).
  – Additional medical follow-up (6-months, 1 year, etc.)
  – Adaptive modifications (left pedal, steering devices, etc.)
  – Approval with no restrictions
  – Suspension

• Individuals have the right to request administrative hearing
Decisions Rendered

- Not Qualified to Drive
- Qualified - No StipIns
- Qualified - With StipIns

Year:
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

Chart showing the number of decisions rendered for each category over the years.
Driver Comparison by Age

Maryland Licensed Drivers By Age - Comparison of 2000 to 2015

2000: $N = 3,595,488$

2015: $N = 4,162,291$

Safe Drivers · Safe Vehicles · Secure Identities · Saving Lives
Older Driver Outreach

- Maryland Older Driver Safety Symposium
  - Originally grant initiative from highway safety office
  - Conducted in 2012, 2013 & 2015
  - Research and best practice presentations specifically on older driver issues
  - Audience
    - Highway safety
    - Healthcare
    - Community service
    - Law enforcement
  - CME/CEU’s for professional development sessions
    - Law enforcement, healthcare, community services
Program Enhancements

- Law enforcement can make referrals to MVA based on crashes or traffic stops
- Manual form requiring multiple levels of sign-off
- Feedback from law enforcement was that the process deterred them from making referrals
- Added to statewide electronic ticketing system in late 2013
- Red flag tip card for law enforcement 2014
Outreach

- Electronic referral form for physicians
- Quarterly meetings with driver rehabilitation network (Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists)
- Outreach through hospitals and professional associations
Medical Advisory Board

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