

Driving After a Stroke

What are the rules about driving after a stroke?

It may be dangerous for you to drive after a stroke (Highway Traffic Act section 203 & 204). In Ontario **any doctor** may report your stroke to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

The rules in Ontario are:

- Stroke Best Practice advises not to drive for **at least** one month (30 days) post stroke
- Your **doctor** or **nurse practitioner** must assess your readiness to drive
- If your doctor is not sure you are ready to drive, he or she may tell you to go to a special driving centre for more tests
- You may be medically cleared to return to driving if you have had no major change in your: vision, physical skills, thinking skills, such as problem solving or judgment

The Ministry of Transportation Process:

If your stroke has been reported to the Ministry, the *Medical Review Section* of the MTO will review your information.

Possible Outcomes:

- No action
- Request for additional medical information
- Request for an evaluation from a specialist
- Request for a comprehensive evaluation at an *Approved Functional Assessment Centre for Drivers*
- Request for a three-part test (vision, written and road test) at a Drive Test Centre
- Immediate suspension of license

If you require further testing, go to the MTO website for more information.

www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/medical-review.shtml

Costs associated with testing are not covered by OHIP

Notice of Suspension

If your driving privilege is suspended, you will receive:

- A formal notice of suspension by mail
- A letter telling you what medical information is required to have the suspension lifted and your driver's license re-instated

When the appropriate medical information is received, a review is done to determine if medical standards have been met. If there are no other suspensions on your driving record, the Ministry will send you a letter telling you the outcome of the review and a notice of reinstatement of your driver's license.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take for my report to be reviewed?

The *Medical Review Section* will review your case and take action within 30 business days.

Does a medical report automatically result in my license being suspended?

No. A medical report to the MTO does not always mean a license suspension.

Once my suspension is lifted, how soon can I resume driving?

Once the MTO makes the decision to re-instate your driver's license, it will take approximately 6 weeks before you receive your license card. If you prefer not to wait 6 weeks, you can visit a *ServiceOntario Centre* and pay a fee to get a temporary license. In most cases, a temporary driver's license is included with your official notice of re-instatement.